

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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## Too Many Bills

As Robert Derrnedde points out in his "Salem Scene" column, written under sponsorship of the Association of Oregon Industries, the state legislature has had more than 1100 bills introduced in two months, and many more are yet to come.

Of this number, probably only a small percentage will become law. It would be a little staggering to think that poor John Q. Citizen would have to be burdened with 1100 new statutes!

No matter how you look at it, this is far too many bills to be introduced. It's downright ridiculous. Many of the proposals are of the "pet peeve" variety and have no real significance in serving the public interest. Others are politically motivated. Buried in the avalanche are bills of true merit and worthy of real consideration.

Bills relating to education alone make a long, long list. Supt. David Potter has been making a valiant attempt at keeping the Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce informed on them. His list this week was two pages long, just devoting one line to each bill. Some of them are silly; some are important. When 1100 bills are introduced at a session, how can any legislator act intelligently on them all? How is it possible to keep the important ones from being inundated in a flood of trivia?

And if the public at large attempted to keep informed to a reasonable degree, everyone would have to stop all normal work and devote full time to checking on legislative bills.

The alternative, though, is that some "dillies" are slipped through without the public's general knowledge—as was done with the ambulance bill of four years ago. Regulations imposed by this bill later had to be rescinded to large degree.

It is time that the legislature started to police itself on its volume. It should work out some sort of screening procedure to keep some of these bills from ever being introduced. Competent legislators should be responsible enough to avoid indulging in whims and pet peeves in their legislative work, and undoubtedly many of them never submit this type of proposal. But others do. We read an article in the Oregon Statesman Sunday that listed some of the funny proposals. It is hard to think that duly elected senators and representatives would submit them in seriousness.

There have been proposals that the length of the session be limited. Maybe that could be worked out, but it might turn out to be restrictive when there is something of vital importance to consider.

There is still some solid justification for considering a one-house legislature, since both houses now are based on population alone. This contributes to a mass of needless debate, parliamentary procedure and introduction of useless bills.

We appreciate and need good legislators, and there is no reason to believe that the majority of those serving aren't doing a conscientious, responsible job. But they do need to work out some kind of check on rampant colleagues who seem to think it an achievement to come up with some new gimmick that might put some foolish new law on the books. It might be feasible, for instance, to limit the number of bills that any one legislator is permitted to introduce. In this manner, those under consideration could be held to the most important.

After all, the public is paying the bill for all these bills, whether they become law or not.

## Waiting for the Lightning to Strike

(Wallowa County Chieftain)

Many people are inclined to assume that all Wallowa county needs to experience a business boom is for some substantial industry to move into the community. If and when this bonanza occurs, prosperity will reign and the future will be rosy. Or, if high Mountain Sheep dam is started on the Snake river the days of economic doldrums will be over and perpetual prosperity will reign. In the meantime there is not much which can be done but sit and wait.

There are some lessons which are overlooked by those who follow this "sit and wait" philosophy. As a general rule people and communities which sit and wait for some stroke of good fortune to hit suddenly out of the blue find themselves still sitting and waiting when their time has run out. Pure luck is not very dependable.

We have watched with some dismay and disappointment the reaction of the community of Elgin to a million dollar or so investment by the Boise Cascade Corporation in a new plywood mill there. When this industrial development was announced there were statements from business leaders in Elgin which indicated that the community was at last on the threshold of a new era of prosperity and growth. Optimism was widespread. Businessmen had their cash registers ready and waiting for the big payroll checks.

The mill was built, a large crew of workmen took jobs at the plant and in the woods, and everything was presumably set for a big boom. But, as far as we can see from this distance, not much happened to Elgin. The town looks the same. There has been very little new construction, few new homes or businesses or public buildings. And there is very little evidence of any imaginative planning for the future or of any deep optimism. A lot of people are disappointed.

We have seen communities, such as Umatilla, boom under impetus of get-rich-quick enthusiasm when a new dam is constructed, only to collapse and become mere wayside stations after the initial activity had subsided.

Industrial developments can be a boon to a community, but only if the people are determined to do something on their own to make their community permanently progressive and attractive. A sense of pride and loyalty are indispensable to the continued well being of any community. If attractive new homes are built, beautiful churches maintained, business houses kept modern, a sound school program maintained, streets and sidewalks kept in first-class condition, sewer and water systems modernized, good hospitals and nursing homes provided, recreational programs developed, unsightly lots and buildings cleared and plans are constantly studied to make a community more attractive, then it is building on a substantial basis. Those who live in such a community will want to stay, and those who visit it will want to come back.

But there is no future for any community which merely waits for the lightning to strike.

Week-end guests of the Stanley Cox family were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mellor, Charlene, Carol and Mickey, of Dayton, Wn. Mrs. Mellor is a sister to Mrs. Cox.

Wayne Harsin was one of 102 representatives from throughout the state to attend the Sewage Plant Operators Short School, a

three day session held annually in February, at Oregon State College in Corvallis.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Griffin, along with their daughter, Sheryl and their grandson, T. J., were here this week-end from Beaverton visiting at the home of her mother, Mrs. Jesse Griffin.

# Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

COL. FRANK McELWEE, district engineer of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla, got off a good joke at the start of his talk to the Chamber of Commerce Monday, his first appearance in Heppner.

He told of the fellow who was appearing in court to get a divorce from his wife.

"She talks all the time," the man told the judge. "When I wake in the morning, she's talking. The last thing I hear at night is her talking. She talks, talks, talks all day long."

"What does she say?" queried the judge.

"I don't know," replied the man. "She doesn't tell me."

Col. McElwee's inference was that he might talk a long time and not say much, but chamber members found it quite the opposite.

He gave a very pertinent and interesting presentation on the proposed Willow Creek dam and on damage caused by the recent floods.

CONGRATULATIONS are due Walter Beckett. He celebrated his 80th birthday Wednesday. Nobody gave him a party, but he observed the occasion by treating his "coffee club" to breakfast on that day. Included in the group were Harold Beckett, Charlie Beckett and Stanley Robinson.

Now you'd think these boys would reciprocate by providing him with a birthday cake at a coming session.

WE HAVEN'T BEEN up there, but we hear that Bull Prairie has been a winter paradise with excellent fishing through the ice on the lake and presenting a beautiful picture with heavy snow covering on all sides. Understand some 80 to 100 were up there Sunday, and the trout they were catching were dandies.

The Bull Prairie development, only about three years old, surely has met all expectations as a recreation site. Again it shows what can be done to develop this "industry" for southern Morrow county.

WE ADMIRE La Verne Van Marter for his achievement in the regional bridge tournament, Portland, over the week-end. What concentration and brain work it must take to vie with the experts of the Pacific Coast in such a tournament!

La Verne came home with two thirds and a fourth out of four sessions in which he played, which is a very good showing. Each of those sessions, by the way, is four hours long, making a total of 16 hours play in two days. That's a good eight hours work each day.

Included among those participating in the tournament are some who will compete for the world's bridge championship.

Anyone for Old Maid with the editor?

NOW THAT this nice springlike day is trying to convince us that the winter storms are over, have you ever noticed how these natural catastrophes so often fall on holidays? For example—the Vapnot flood on Memorial day, the Alaska earthquake on Good Friday, the December flood on Christmas, the big wind in the valley a couple years ago on Columbus Day. Maybe you can think of others. Don't figure this has any supernatural significance. It does have one practical advantage—it makes it easier to remember the dates.

IT ISN'T anything new for Giles French of Moro to win awards in journalism, but he received the highest honor in Oregon journalism last week-end at the journal press conference in Eugene when he was presented the Voorhies award for outstanding achievement. Former Governor Charles Sprague, chairman of the committee, made the presentation.

Giles, who sold the paper (Sherman County Journal) a couple years ago to Dan Bartlett, still writes his pithy column, "These Things We Note," and writes editorials for the paper.

As a newspaper neighbor, we congratulate Giles. Many here know him and read his pertinent paragraphs.

After the Friday banquet at Eugene we kidded him a bit about some reference to the "Sherman County Observer" instead of the "Sherman County Journal" in the presentation.

"Well," replied Giles. "When you get to be 100 years old, you're entitled to make a few mistakes."

However, we learned that the Sherman County Journal was once, indeed, the Sherman County Observer. Giles changed the name.

THE SHERMANS took a run down to Cottage Grove last Saturday p.m. for a short visit with the Fred Gimbel, late good citizens of Heppner. It was quite appropriate to find Fred engaged in reading the week's issue of the Gazette-Times, which arrived just ahead of us.

They seem to like Cottage Grove real well, except that Fred isn't very happy with the rain. There are a lot of lakes around over there, but Fred claims that when it rains you can't tell where the lake ends and the land begins.



## THIRTY YEARS AGO

February 28, 1935  
Laurel Beach, son of Mrs. Elsie M. Beach, of Lexington, and an instructor in Lexington High school, was a featured soloist with the Portland Symphony orchestra on January 7. Mrs. Madge Thomson was a substitute teacher in his place while he was away.

Miss Katie Minert announced her candidacy for the position of clerk of school district No. 1.

Second edition of the Ione Index, a paper published by the students, has appeared. The editorial staff is Francis Bryson, editor; Hattie Van Scholack, art editor; Junior Mason, humor editor; Harlan McCurdy, Jr., athletic editor, and Miriam Hale, advertising manager.

Ralph Akers has disposed of his interest in Bristow and Johnson store to E. J. Bristow, who is now sole owner of the store.

## TWENTY YEARS AGO

February 22, 1945  
The annual Red Cross membership and war fund drive are underway with Rev. Beenie Howe as county chapter chairman and Mrs. Ted Smith, Heppner community chairman. Appeals from our boys in service are coming from the various sectors.

Mrs. Carl McDaniel received word that her brother, George Smith of Condon, a merchant marine was on board a transport that was blown up in the Pacific with no survivors.

## Attend Conclave

Mr. and Mrs. Wes Sherman attended the annual Oregon Press Conference in Eugene Friday and Saturday, and he also met with other directors of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers association Thursday night. While in Eugene the Shermans visited their son, Bill, freshman at the University of Oregon. They spent Saturday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gimbel, formerly of Heppner, at Cottage Grove and Saturday evening and Sunday with their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Sherman, in Salem. Mr. Sherman served as a member of the nominating committee and Voorhies award committee at the conference.

Smith will superintend construction of the Heppner Lumber Company's new dry kiln, of sufficient size to handle the entire output of the mill and will be built at a cost of \$75,000.

Leta Humphreys is attending a druggists' buyers meeting in Portland and will hear the Roland Hayes concert.

## TEN YEARS AGO

February 24, 1955  
March of Dimes drive officials released figures showing that the polo drive in the county raised a total of \$2,442.89. Roice Fulleton was winner of \$1,000 sweepstakes prize in the Union Oil sponsored Dipstick Derby, for recording most oil sales during the past three months of any Union dealer in the entire northwest.

## Speeding Contest Brings Penalties

Two young men pleaded guilty to engaging in a speed contest on the highway in court of Earl Soward, justice of the peace, Friday.

Driver's license of Alan Lane, 19, was suspended for three months, and John Bert Weems, 22, was sentenced to three months in jail but the sentence was suspended on condition that he report to the justice of the peace weekly.

The two were arrested by State Officer James Gordon after a citizen complained. The incident occurred on the Hinton creek highway near the outskirts of town.

## Henry Stotts Better

Henry Stotts is improving in the Walla Walla, Wn., General Hospital following two major operations there, his wife said Wednesday. He is listed in satisfactory condition although he has had some complication from a congested lung. Mr. Stotts has been hospitalized about a month and does not know when he will be dismissed. Mrs. Stotts said that he has been cheered by the cards and acts of thoughtfulness from friends.

## Health Association Votes to Join Eastern Region

At a meeting of the Morrow County TB and Health Association held February 16, a vote was taken on the recommendation of the executive board of the association to become a part of the recently formed Eastern Region of the Oregon TB and Health Association.

The Eastern Region is made up of the counties of Union, Baker, Harney, Umatilla, Walla Walla and Malheur.

The executive board has spent almost two years investigating the possibility and advantages of reorganizing and becoming a part of this group. Ten members of the association were present and voted 9 to 1 in favor of consolidating. There were five written statements sent by persons unable to attend the meeting. Their votes were 4 to 1 for consolidation.

As a part of the Eastern Oregon Region, representatives elected by the Morrow county association will meet with representatives from the above mentioned counties to help work out better programs for Eastern Oregon generally. Ray Buckwalter, program director for the Eastern Region, has been doing a very fine job and has had an unbelievable response and success in working with the people in the six counties which have had a year to evaluate the results of their reorganization.

Under the new regional setup, the organization will function much in the same way—a budget will be prepared as usual for our local programs; the same number of volunteer officers and directors will be elected; and a seal sale campaign will be conducted. Mr. Buckwalter will meet with us regularly to help direct our programs and will be available to present many programs and activities which we have been unable to do in the past.

In the six counties mentioned above, he has conducted smoking clinics in the junior high and the high schools; one county had a mass tuberculin skin (Tine) testing clinic; chest clinics are being held in most counties. It is also expected that the Mobile X-ray Unit will be available in both the south and the north ends of the county.

At the request of the Pioneer Memorial hospital board, the X-ray program conducted for the past 10 years on the first Wednesday of each month for the general public will be discontinued as of April 1, 1965. It will be necessary, therefore, to broaden our case-finding program and Mr. Buckwalter will be available to direct us toward a better program which will include not only tuberculosis, but

## Van Marter Plays In Bridge Tourney

La Verne Van Marter, Jr. won two third places and one fourth place in four sessions of a regional duplicate bridge tournament at the Hilton Hotel, Portland, Saturday and Sunday. In doing so, he won three master points.

Van Marter, accompanied by his wife, was the only entrant in the tournament from Heppner, although there were several from Pendleton, Hermiston, Walla Walla and Baker.

## Surplus Foods Made Available By County Court

Almost 200 persons are presently receiving surplus foods, it was revealed at the February meeting of the Morrow County Welfare commission. The commission urges all those eligible to avail themselves of the commodities which are furnished through the county court, according to Lowell Chally, director.

Standards are based on the previous 30 days net income, according to the following table: 1 person, \$118; 2 persons, \$171; 3 persons, \$186; 4 persons, \$223; 5 and 6 persons, \$269; 7, 8 and 9 persons, \$360, and 10 or more, \$383.

There is an allowable cash reserve of \$500 for one person or \$1000 for two or more. Further information may be secured by contacting the Welfare Office, Case Building, in Heppner (ph. 676-9211).

Foods are distributed there from 1 to 5 p.m. the first two Thursdays of each month. Currently available are meat, cheese, butter, lard, flour, dried milk, beans, rice, rolled wheat, bulgar and peanut butter.

Mrs. Lester Cox is making steady recovery at home after undergoing surgery at the Pendleton Community hospital February 10. She returned to her home February 16. She enjoyed a visit with her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Rohde, the former Fern Graves, when they visited here last week.

respiratory diseases such as asthma, emphysema, bronchitis, influenza, and others. A tentative date for the annual meeting has been set for April 20. It is hoped to have Mr. Buckwalter for a speaker and the executive board would like a good turnout for the meeting in order that all may become acquainted with him and with the new program.

## Mrs. Esteb Suffers Injury in Fall

Mrs. Ida Esteb, former Ione resident, now living with a daughter at Otis, fell recently and broke a pelvic bone, according to information received by friends here. Mrs. Esteb, who is about 88 years of age, is expected to be confined for about three months because of the injury. She is recovering in a convalescent home near Otis.

Mrs. Esteb left Ione just a few months ago to live with the daughter, Mrs. C. E. Calkins. Those who wish to write her or send cards should address them in care of Mrs. Calkins, Rt. 1, Box 193, Otis, Oregon, 97063.

Looking for mimeograph stencils? The Gazette-Times has them for sale including special church bulletin style.



Coming Events  
HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL  
Friday, February 26  
Pilot Rock at Heppner  
Jayvee 6:30; Varsity, 8 p.m.  
Support the Mustangs!

PUBLIC CARD PARTY  
Saturday, Feb. 27  
IOOF Hall, 7:30 p.m.  
Sponsored by Sans Souci  
Three Links club.

SKIING AT ARBUCKLE  
Take bus Saturday, Feb. 27,  
9:15 a.m. from Tum-A-Lum  
Tow operating. Good snow.

ROCKHOUND MEETING  
Potluck dinner, 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 27, old city  
library.  
Slides on silver.

PANCAKE LUNCHEON  
Episcopal Parish Hall  
Tuesday, March 2, 11:30 to  
1:30 p.m.  
Everyone Welcome!

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