

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Support Umatilla Bridge Route

Unified support, which may be "too little and too late," came this week for the Umatilla Bridge route for proposed Interstate Highway 82 from official and civic agencies of Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Following a 2 1/2-hour meeting Tuesday in the courthouse here, a representative group from the county court, Port of Morrow, county planning commission, and the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce agreed to join with supporters of the Umatilla bridge route in Umatilla county in order to "save the highway for Eastern Oregon." On Wednesday Umatilla officials came to help work out a joint meeting.

The groups in both counties know very well that Senator Warren Magnuson of Washington is dedicated to routing the highway via Washington's Tri-Cities, after which it would cut southward through Van Sycle canyon. This route would bypass Pendleton to the east and would be of very little benefit to the State of Oregon, let alone Morrow and Umatilla counties. It would also run through valuable wheat lands and would be the most expensive, as well as the longest, route of the three proposals.

Original proposal was that the interstate federal highway would come down from Ellensburg and cross the Columbia River either at Blalock Island, near Boardman; or at the Umatilla bridge. Most Morrow county officials and civic leaders have been strong supporters for the Blalock Island route as being the shortest and most direct, and their thinking has been that it would best serve the original purpose of the highway—a direct military route to link SON—as well as to serve the best interests of the northwest as a whole.

Umatilla county interests have been equally strong, and considerably more vocal, in pressing for the route by the Umatilla bridge.

Judge Oscar Peterson, who could not be at the Tuesday meeting, has been principle voice here for the island route, and he has devoted considerable time and effort, both during the time he was county judge and afterwards, in his endeavor to enlist support for the route.

Within the past several weeks, however, Senator Magnuson has intensified his effort to swing the route via the Tri-Cities and is sponsoring a bill in Congress to that end.

Action by the group here Tuesday to present a unified front with Umatilla county was taken with the feeling that it would be a grave mistake for the route to go via Tri-Cities. The purpose of the highway should not be to serve any particular cities but to serve the entire area.

County Judge Paul Jones read a report that indicated the Blalock Island route has been virtually abandoned in the thinking of highway officials and the Bureau of Public Roads.

Thus, while the Blalock route has been uppermost in the minds of Morrow county leaders, and the Chamber of Commerce has endorsed and supported this route, it is felt that the Umatilla bridge route will serve both Umatilla and Morrow counties to good advantage. If the Boeing complex develops, together with other industries along the riverfront and in the industrial park, it will provide good access from points north to Seattle. It will make a direct link to highway 80N.

In joining the Umatilla county contingent, however, the Morrow group did so with the reservation that if Blalock Island should come back into serious consideration and gain favor by the roads and highway officials, perhaps over the Umatilla bridge route, the Morrow people would accept support for this route from the neighboring county.

It was a difficult step for those who have felt that the Blalock Island route was the best of the three proposals, but it seems quite clear that all interested persons must band together on a unified course of action if they are to be heard.

Mayor Dewey West of Boardman, who said he had worked for the Blalock route for eight years, urged the support for the bridge route as he emphasized the need for combined action.

Now that the decision has been made, it will be essential for all groups—the county courts, port commissions, Mid-Columbia Council, chambers of commerce, cities, planning commissions, Space Age Development association and others—to marshal their forces and work diligently to "save the highway for Oregon". It will be a tremendous job to overcome the powerful influence of Senator Magnuson and the strong forces behind him.

Individuals can help by writing congressmen and speaking out in favor of the Umatilla bridge route.

TO THE EDITOR...

Dear Wes,

As the days become fewer before leaving and I evaluate some of my accomplishments in making an annual report, it occurs to me that I cannot conscientiously leave Morrow County without a special "thank you" for your fine cooperation. I and the office are much indebted to your fine help during the years you have been here. The privilege to work with you and the unselfish time and effort you have given to making Morrow county a better place in which to live should not go unnoticed. I have found that you are definitely interested in everything that makes Morrow county progress. I am sure that the businesses and agricultural people of the county are aware of this and if they are not, they should become aware soon.

I know my job has been made easier by your cooperation in information and educational communication with the people I work with. Your interest and suggestions for special pages, observances and other features toward making this county a good place to live is outstanding. My only regret is that we could not become better acquainted and work together for many years. Our whole family will be thinking of you when we get to our new home and hope that you might be interested in a report now and then of some of the things that are happening with the Andersons in the "Dark Continent."

Very truly yours,
N. C. Anderson
County Extension Agent,
Agriculture

TO the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation in helping to make our "Poppy Sale" a success.

Without the Poppy program there would be no rehabilitation or child welfare program.

The stories you print in your paper help the public to familiarize themselves to the story of the red paper flower.

The American Legion Auxiliary does appreciate all you have done for us. Again thank you.

Sincerely,
Hazel Hamlin

Sheridan Wyman arrived home Sunday after a two weeks trip with her grandmother, Mrs. T. J. Wyman, of Prineville that took them as far south as San Francisco. They drove to Weaverville, Calif., to attend the graduation of Sheridan's first cousin, Terry Cato, from Trinity High School there, and then continued to San Francisco to visit relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Laughlin drove over to Prineville Sunday to visit with his grandmother, Mrs. Robert Sartin, and brought Sheridan home from there.

June 19 to July 5

TO OUR FINE PATRONS—

BUD AND MARVEL WISH TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE GOING ON VACATION.

WE SHALL RETURN ON JULY 5 TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS AT MAKING A NICE DINING ROOM WITH THE FINEST IN FOODS FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT.

THANK YOU!

--HEPPNER GRILL

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

HEY, look at the smiles on the faces of our ranchers following the good rain this week!

We understand that prior to the rains a couple of our wheat ranchers were talking about the poor condition of their crops.

"The drought sure has made the wheat crop short this year," said one.

"Yes," replied the other mournfully, "I'm going to have to lather mine to mow it."

APPARENTLY Joe Balfe is quite a golfer. He was among those who played in a tournament the other day at the Pendleton course. We hope he isn't quite as ardent as the guy who skipped church one Sunday to play golf.

"I couldn't have gone to church today anyhow," he reasoned. "My wife is sick in bed."

KATHERINE LINDSTROM, our lone correspondent, forwards to us a clipping from the Seattle Times, sent to her by a friend. It is a column written by Don Duncan, concerning the work of the "country correspondents" in weekly newspapers.

"As a one-time weekly newspaper editor (Omak, South Bend, Shelton), my job was to translate into English the tremble of Spencerian of a parcel of correspondents—usually the Great American housewife, but occasionally a farmer with straw in his teeth and manure on his boots," he wrote.

"Trimming words from effusive correspondents was looked upon with great favor by my bosses, who didn't want anyone to get rich on 10 cents a column inch."

"Envelopes were filled to bursting with the weekly news haul, and not a few contained instruction to 'print this just the way I have writ it, Mr. Editor.'"

"Weekly editors used to tell the story, probably apocryphal, of the isolated correspondent who got her envelope in late and wrote, 'There's nothing to write about this week, because the whole town has been busy over at the mine cave-in. I probably won't have any news until they rescue the 10 men trapped up there.'"

"My correspondents erred more often in the lavishness and boldness of their descriptions: 'Tom Smith was driving down the street last Sunday, drunk as usual, when he hit an automobile driven by the mayor.'"

"A correspondent whose geography was confined to barren hills she could see from the kitchen window, reported the remarks of a prominent businessman just back from the Dominican Republic. 'Mr. George,' she wrote, 'held us spellbound with a wonderful talk on the Domino Republicans.'"

"Another faithful correspondent consistently reported bridge and pinocle parties at which Mrs. Abel (a teetotaler) was high and her husband (a church deacon of awesome purity) was low."

"Weekly correspondents cared nothing for international intrigue, smoke-filled rooms and earth-shaking decisions by men in 'Who's Who.' They worried about Widow Brown in the hospital. And they told her so with a 'get well soon.' They would rather write about, and their neighbors would rather read about, the big grand installation, the pretty new school teacher and the box social at the church."

"And sure as tomorrow will come, and kids will continue to believe in Santa Claus, the weekly correspondent used to end his big story on this high note (the hallmark of rural perfection):"

"A wonderful time was had by all."

"It was, too."

AFTER WORKING with rural correspondents for more than 20 years, we must make some comments of our own. Mr. Dun-

can does strike notes that ring the bell, all right.

We recall one correspondent in another town who always spelled "business" as "buissness." She used the word often, and we had to change it several times in every batch she sent in. We went on a tour one time to meet all our correspondents and resolved that we would get this "buissness" straightened out when we saw her. But when we met the lady and enjoyed the cake and coffee and the way she didn't have the heart to broach the matter and kept right on changing "buissness" week after week.

We also recall the story of the correspondent who was supposed to cover the wedding of a prominent couple in her community, but she wrote to the editor that there was no story because the bride didn't show up.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES has seven "country correspondents" and they are all real good. They do a whale of a job in covering their communities, and their material comes to us in fine shape. They are faithful as they can be, and they do an excellent job in publicizing their areas.

The lot of correspondents isn't a very thrilling one. They spend a great deal of time contacting people for news, get only small pay, and sometimes, when the paper is "tight," their material is left out or held to a later week. That leaves them with the job of explaining to their people why those items didn't get in. And like anyone in the newspaper business, they may be severely criticized if something comes out wrong in print—whether it is their fault or whether it is a "typo" on the part of the paper.

These correspondents provide considerable of the "soul" of a weekly paper. We believe our crew has more true news sense than many of those of the type Mr. Duncan mentions and we get some pretty significant stories from them. They help us cover a very broad field, since the Gazette-Times has a diameter of more than 100 miles to cover—from Boardman in the north to Kinzua in the south. Many papers in western Oregon have less than a 10-mile diameter to handle.

Strength of the rural weekly still lies largely in its warmth and personal touch as it lives with the people it serves and is interested in each one of them. Rural correspondents fit right into this groove.

Tendency today seems to be to dispense with the "trifles" as newspapers become more objective and consequently "colder" in policy. Our feeling is, though, that once a weekly paper has lost the warm and common

Heppner Students Get U of O Degrees

Two Heppner students received degrees at the commencement exercises of the University of Oregon Sunday in Eugene.

They are Roger Paul Doherty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Doherty, bachelor of science; and Larry Lyman Tibbles, son of Dr. and Mrs. L. D. Tibbles, bachelor of science.

At the commencement there were 1,240 candidates for baccalaureate degrees, 283 candidates for masters degrees, and 69 candidates for doctoral degrees. President Arthur S. Fleming conferred the degrees.

touch, it has lost its backbone. So, while we have a sympathetic understanding for what Mr. Duncan has to say, we say, "Bless our correspondents," and with a minimum of editing, we are going to do our best to continue to print what they send as it is "writ."

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

SWIMMING POOL
Open Tuesday through Saturday, 1 to 4, 7:00-8:30; 2-6 on Sundays.
Closed Mondays.
Season tickets and daily tickets available.
Swim lessons start Tuesday, June 22.

YOUTH RALLY
Teenage Youth Rally, Friday, June 18, 7:30 p.m. Led by Portland Youth Assembly of God Church. Public Invited.

ELKS PICNIC
For all Elks Lodge No. 358 members and families. Cutsforth Park, 10 a.m.

LADIES GOLF TOURNEY
Willow Creek Club entertains Kinzua Women's club Tuesday, June 22, tee-off, 9 a.m. Luncheon at noon.

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Plan Now To Attend The Pancake Feed

Sponsored by

Lexington Odd Fellows
Lexington IOOF Hall

Saturday, June 26

5:30 TO 8 P.M.

"All You Can Eat for \$1.50"

A Word of Appreciation...

EFFECTIVE AS OF JUNE 15, WE HAVE SOLD LAIRDS' VARIETY TO MR. AND MRS. WILBUR VAN BLOKLAND, AND AT THIS TIME WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN US SUCH LOYAL SUPPORT. COOPERATION AND RESPONSE OF THE PUBLIC HAVE MADE THE PAST THREE YEARS VERY PLEASANT FOR US.

WE COMMEND THE NEW OWNERS TO EVERYONE OF THIS AREA. THEY ARE FINE MORROW COUNTY PEOPLE AND WE KNOW WILL DO A VERY FINE JOB OF SERVING YOU.

—AROLENE LAIRD AND TOM LAIRD

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