

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

COMMENTS in this column last week about the booklet written ten years ago on "Oregon Wheat Lands" by I. A. Woolery of Ione reached Mrs. Josephine Woolery Conway, his daughter, in Portland, who would like to have a copy of the booklet.

She also adds some interesting background: "My father came to Oregon from Missouri in the early 1880's. He worked for Uncle Ben Parker and Pete Gleason at Parkers Mill. He later drove a stage from Heppner to Monument.

"In 1888 he married Helen V. of Monument. Shortly afterward they opened a general store in Hardman. They moved to Ione about 1891. He was a rancher and in business there until he died in 1908.

"He was greatly interested in the development of Morrow County; particularly the area around Ione."

We only have the one copy of the booklet and rather hate to see it leave the Gazette-Times archives. Are there any others around that anyone could make available to Mrs. Conway?

OLA MAE GROSHENS brought in a little chuckler to us the other day. It was originally published May 20, 1915, in the Cowlitz County Advocate, Castle Rock, Wn., and later in the Curry County Reporter. She had saved it among her things and thought it appropriate for us.

We don't feel quite as persecuted as the editor in point, but it tickled us anyway. Here it is:

"YOU THINK YOU HAVE TROUBLES?"

"Consider the editor. He wears purple and fine linen. His abode is amongst the mansions of the rich. His wife hath her limousine and his first born sporteth a racing car that can hit her up in forty flat.

"Lo! All the people breaketh their necks to hand him money. A child is born unto the wife of a merchant in the bazaar. The physician getteth 10 gold plunks. The editor writteth a stick and a half and telleth the multitude that the child tippeth the beam at nine pounds. Yea, he lieth even as a centurion. And the proud father giveth him a Cremo.

"Behold, the young one groweth up and graduateth. And the editor putteth into his paper a swell notice. Yea, a peach of a notice. He telleth of the wisdom of the young woman, and of her exceeding comeliness. Like the roses of Sharon is she and her gown is played up to beat the band. And the dressmaker getteth two score and four iron men. And the editor getteth a note of thanks from the SGG.

"The daughter goeth on a journey. And the editor throweth himself on the story of the farewell party. It runneth a column solid. And the fair one remembereth him from afar off with a picture postal card that costeth six for a jinyey.

"Behold, she returneth and the youth of the city fall down and worship. She picketh one and Lo, she picketh a lemon. But the editor calleth him one of our most promising young men and getteth away with it. And they send unto him a bid to the wedding feast and behold, the bids are fashioned by Muntgomery Hawbuck, in a far city.

"Flowery and long is the wedding notice which the editor printeth. The minister getteth 10 bones. The groom standeth the editor off for a twelve-month time the wife gathered into the subscription.

"All flesh is grass and in silo. The minister getteth his bit. The editor printeth a death notice, two columns of obituary, three lodge notices, a cubit of poetry and a card of thanks. And he forgetteth to read proof on the head, and the darned thing cometh out, "Gone to Her Last Roasting Place."

"And all that are akin to the deceased jumpeth on the editor with exceeding great jumps. And they pulleth out their ads and cancellth their subscriptions, and they swing the hammer unto the third and fourth generations.

"Canst thou beat it?"

TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor:
I couldn't help but feel highly elated when I heard about the fine cooperation and interest taken by our friends in getting the irrigation feature of the Heppner-Willow Creek flood control dam underway. The work done by Judge Paul Jones, Clarence Rosewell and Question Bowman, field representative for the State Water Resources Board, is certainly highly commendable. Also the good people who signed the paper indicating their willingness to form an organization for irrigation are to be commended.

Since this Willow Creek project is a multipurpose project no further progress could be made until those who would benefit definitely from the irrigation feature would declare themselves. I, as one who has strived long and hard for the project, can't help but feel most enthusiastic. Also I can't help but feel very enthusiastic for these fine cooperators who signed the petitions because I honestly believe they will greatly benefit as a result thereof.

We are now in line to ask Congress for pre-construction funds. Much work and worry had gone into getting the project authorized. It is possible that I will be along with a delegation of the Inland Empire Waterways association officers and directors who will appear before the appropriations committee of both the Senate and the House in the nation's capitol soon. The thinking is that this will be around the last of May or the first of June. Anyway if I am along, as I have been before, I shall certainly boost for the project.

Oscar E. Peterson

Dear Wes:
The Morrow County Jaycees wish to express their gratitude for the fine coverage you gave them on the All American Red Heads basketball game. Your support helped make the game a financial success and the Jaycees are indeed grateful to you. Again we say, thanks, Wes.
Wayne Lamb, President

To the Editor:
The need for reform in all phases of animal experimentation is at last making its impact on the American conscience. A recent series of pictures in Life magazine, "Concentration Camps for Dogs," powerfully drama'tized this need. A humane society raid rescued 28 of the worst cases, but some 75 dogs remained.

This is but a sample of what goes on in many compounds all over the United States. To cash in on the need of experimental laboratories for almost 2,000,000 dogs a year, "dog dealers" buy dogs and other small animals wherever they can. Most of them, strayed or stolen pets, eventually are sold to laboratories.

Who are the guilty — the thieves, the dealers, the wantonly cruel laboratory operators? Of course. But guilty also are people who avail themselves of benefits from medical research but close their eyes to its abuses and demand no reform; in-

different or reluctant legislators and executives; individuals who are too sensitive to read shocking exposes but too busy to write their legislators; individuals who are able to back their convictions with money and fail to do so.

I would like to publicly thank Congressman Resnick for his bill and 17 similar bills, including one authored by Congressman W. R. Poage, chairman of the subcommittee on Livestock of the House Agriculture committee, which have received favorable hearings. The Poage bill, H.R. 12488, will protect all vertebrate animals on dealers' premises and in laboratories.

We still need help of all to write to legislators in Washington. No one knowing the grisly facts has the right to say "Disgraceful!" who does not also have the gumption to write his legislators.

In friendship for the helpless, speechless and voteless animals—

Mrs. Lois Winchester

Dear Wes and Helen:
Many people of the Heppner area remember my dad, Charles Hemrich.

Reading the article in the last issue of the Gazette-Times, I wonder how many readers know that he helped build the barn that Gene Majeske wrote about, and that he whittled the pegs at night to put the barn together—with not a nail in it.

Eleanor Gonty

Summary Isn't Enough

Publication of a budget of a taxing body in summary form is like sending a statement from a business to a customer merely showing the "balance due." It shows how much he is asked to pay, but it doesn't show the itemized amounts of the charges.

Since publication of the summary form school district budget in Morrow county for 1966-67 in the March 3 and 10 issues of this paper, we have received several complaints from those who were looking for specific information and could not find it.

We pointed out that under the new state law, passed in the 1963 legislative session, taxing bodies are no longer required to publish their budgets in detail. The summary form now fills the legal requirement. However, copies of budgets in detailed form are available to the public from the taxing bodies.

We mentioned this to one of those who had posed a question on the school budget.

The reply, "Who's going to drive all the way to Lexington to get a copy?"

The point is well taken. As we wrote at the time the new law was passed, it is our conviction that publishing budgets in summary form does not fill the need. It does fill the legal requirement. This statement of "balance due" isn't enough when the public wants to know how its money is being spent.

Ironically, until some additional abbreviations were allowed this year, budgets in summary form printed last year ran nearly as long as those in detail. Publication costs (and the rate is fixed by state law), were in some cases higher than those of the detailed budgets.

The county court last year acted wisely, we think, in deciding to print the budget for county purposes in full because it gave the people the best picture that could be presented in such a document about what the tax money was to be used for.

The public often misconstrues the summary budgets as seeking to hide something from them. For instance, under capital outlay in the R-1 budget is an item of \$10,800 for sites, \$5,809 for buildings and \$26,809 for equipment. This satisfies the state requirement, and it is the way it is set up on the forms provided by the state.

But the public also may want to know what equipment is to be bought; it may want to know what the \$10,800 is to be used for on sites ("Does it include \$8,000 for the Morgan street extension?" one man asked).

These are things that Supt. David Potter will gladly give full information on. Any member of the budget committee will be glad to explain the points. Also, any of these questions may be answered at the budget meeting.

But why not keep it out in full view for all—those who don't want to go to the trouble of calling for a copy of the budget, and those who can't or don't want to attend the budget meeting. If all taxpayers who are really interested in their tax bills attended the budget meeting, no auditorium big enough to hold them could be found.

We view this as another step of taking government farther away from the people. We don't like it, and we'll editorialize on it as long as the trend continues.

Those who come up with this kind of legislation may agree that the public has a right to know how its money is being spent but they don't seem to want to make it too convenient for the taxpayer.

We don't believe that many of our taxing bodies will attempt to use the summary form as a device for covertly including items that they think the public may not approve. After all, the detailed budgets are open for inspection. But because most of the people won't go to the trouble of seeking a copy of the budget, this does make it an easier possibility for manipulation.

When the budget is published in detail in the newspaper that has the greatest general circulation in a local area, it is there for all to see. And the cost, which one considers the job of mimeographing and furnishing extra copies of detailed budgets, is little more. It seems to us that it is money well spent as a safeguard of the public's right to know.

Ranchers Give Project a Boost

After it was announced last week that ranchers had come through in great style in agreeing to organize an irrigation district under the Willow Creek project, there was a noticeable lift to morale around the city of Heppner.

Gratitude of all those who will be benefitted by the project is due the ranchers who showed such excellent cooperation.

The irrigation feature was the one point upon which centered the most anxiety for the eventual culmination of the project. It was well known that the potential irrigators did not have all the information that they might have wanted, and some may still not be sure that it will reap the benefits that it promises.

But to those who are convinced that the project is a vital step in the development of the region and important to the economy, the prompt and efficient action by the ranchers brought sincere gratification.

It was also well known that time is of the essence if the request for pre-construction appropriation is to reach Congress at this session. After signing the document of intention to form the district, the participants lost no time in culminating it. They immediately met and set up the organization, elected officers and directors. At this time steps are under way for incorporation.

Credit is due Quentin Bowman of the State Water Resources Board for coming here to assist in making personal contacts with the potential irrigators. With County Judge Paul Jones and W. C. Rosewell, he worked long hours on this task last week. Bowman, who states that he has been working on this project for 10 years, is keenly interested in seeing it completed and bringing benefits to the county.

There will be other hurdles before the project is to be started. The Vietnam war brings additional demands on the federal government's pocketbook, and this could slow things, too. But the feeling is now that the local hurdle is past and the dam project comes that much closer.

It is realized that there are still some who are against the project, and this is to be expected. It is to be hoped that with the passing of time—when the dam is built and serving its multipurpose uses—it will be of benefit to all and these objections that some have will fade away.

The Right Hand and The Left Hand

BY JACK POWELL in His Column, 'JACK'S JOTTINGS,' STAYTON MAIL, MARCH 3, 1966.

EVERY NOW AND THEN, the wonderful world of big government produces some interesting specimens of what happens when the left hand and right hand can't get together.

Such as one you may have noticed recently. The Department of Health and Surgeon's General's office promoted an intensive study of the effects of cigarette smoking, and came up with conclusive evidence that people who smoke cigarettes habitually are considered more likely to become victims of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, halitosis and sundry other plagues.

These findings were published in the nation's newspapers, scared the bejabbbers out of concerned citizens and caused several dozen to kick the weeds. Congress was asked to pass a bill requiring a stern warning to be printed on every package of lung-busters sold. By the time the tobacco state solons got through with the bill, it was watered down gorgeously. The compromise version indicates that continuous smoking could be injurious to the smoker's health, but that this is probably only idle rumor.

Meanwhile, back at the Department of Agriculture, the feds are still doling out subsidies to tobacco growers, which is a good deal like setting up a bureau for the encouragement and support of buibonic plague.

This is wild enough, but now comes the news that the Ag. Dept. is dishing out \$210,000 on a filmed commercial called "The World of Pleasure." This will depict the joys of cigarette smoking, and is designed to be shown in Japan, Thailand and Austria as part of a program to offset any damage occasioned by the Surgeon General's report in the form of drooping sales of coffin nails.

This seems to be one of those things that happen when governments get out of control. We humbly suggest that one change be made. How about sending the film to Cuba, East Germany, Albania and Red China. Our ally situation is sick enough now, without any help from the Department of Agriculture.

Committee Seeks Historical Data

In response to a letter from E. R. Jackman, Oregon historian, to Frank Anderson, a committee of county residents is being organized to collect materials concerning Morrow county history that would be of use for reference at the Oregon State Library.

Little has been placed on documentary reference file at the State Library on historical facts of Morrow county. Copies of old records, letters, books, and other items that would contribute historical data for reference at the library is sought by the committee.

Meeting recently to discuss avenues of obtaining items of historical interest of the county, were Orville Cutsforth, Harold Cohn, Frank Anderson, Mrs. Earl Gilliam, Mrs. Bill Sowell, Mr. and Mrs. Pearl Howell, Walter Wright and Mrs. W. E. Bergstrom.

Any of the above could be contacted for questions or contributions.

Harley Matteson Dies in Pendleton, Services Held Here

Harley Matteson, 79, who had lived most of his life in Morrow county, died Thursday afternoon, March 10, at Delamarter Nursing Home in Portland, where he had resided for some time.

Services were held Sunday, March 13, at Sweeney Mortuary Chapel, Heppner, with the Rev. Al Boschee officiating. Interment was in the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Born August 31, 1886, in Heppner, he was the son of Albert and Julia (Gaunt) Matteson. He was well known among south Morrow county ranchers for his work with sheep, shearing and tagging, and tending camps.

Surviving are a brother, Elmer of Monument; two sisters, Mrs. Stella Mulvaney of Seattle, Wn., and Mrs. Sylvia Prest of Walla Walla, Wn., besides many nieces and nephews.

Prindle Named To State Office

Milo Prindle of Heppner, logging superintendent of Kinzua Corp., was elected vice president of the Oregon Logging Conference at its 28th annual session in Eugene in February.

New president of the organization is H. Frank Ramsey, owner of Timber Access Industries, Corvallis; A. G. McReynolds, of Guistina Bros. Lumber and Plywood of Eugene, was reelected treasurer, and Robert Cross, also of Eugene, was reelected secretary.

Former Lexington Man, Alva A. Reaney, Dies At Vancouver

Alva A. Reaney, 50, native resident of Lexington, died March 11 at Vancouver, Wn., according to word from his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Reaney, who reside at 1341 E. Reserve St., Vancouver, Wn.

Services were held from the Vancouver Funeral Chapel on Tuesday, March 15.

Mr. Reaney was born April 24, 1915, in Lexington. He attended grade school there, and moved with his family to Vancouver in 1930. He graduated from Fort Vancouver High school, and for the past 20 years has been employed in the drug store business. His mother preceded him in death when he was three years of age.

Besides his parents at Vancouver, survivors include his wife, Ruth, a daughter, Linda, and son, Rodger, at home at 12402 N. E. 50th Ave., Vancouver.

Also three brothers, Maurice of Portland; Robert of Camas, and John of Vancouver; and three sisters, Gladys Johnson of Salem, Joyce Woolf of Portland, and Jean Hobson of Coquille.

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