

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Let's Make the Show Pay!

Morrow county has staged a rodeo since 1922. It is the celebration highlight of the year, and apparently here to stay.

Backed by funds from the fair, there isn't as much pressure to make it a financial success as if it were strictly on its own to make a profit or a loss.

This year the rodeo had a good gate, but undoubtedly it will show a loss. Last year, it lost about \$700.

In a sense it is a part of the fair. The rodeo committee is subordinate to the fair board, and the rodeo is always at the conclusion of fair week, giving it the complexion of being the fun and entertainment event of the more serious fair.

For this reason, maybe one shouldn't be concerned whether it makes a profit. On the other hand, there are some good reasons why it should. First, it should be a matter of civic pride. Anything worth doing should be able to carry its own weight. This show has enough stature among rodeos to be considered worthy enough to attract a gate to make it a financial success.

Secondly, there is a crying need for a new grandstand. If the rodeo can show a profit, it should lessen the time that the grandstand will be a reality. If it isn't necessary to dip into fair funds to make up a deficit, this might be channeled to a new grandstand. Also any profit made might go to this purpose.

Ironically, the fact that the grandstand is inconvenient and uncomfortable for spectators is probably no little factor in holding down the revenue. People don't want to sit for several hours on a hard board with no leg room and without easy access.

One way that might help make the show a financial success would be to examine again the "leaks" that permit many persons to see the rodeo without charge. At least 500 at the event are in the non-paying category, and probably this cannot be helped. They are the contestants, the visiting courts, officials and participants.

This year, each contestant was given one complimentary pass as well as his number. The number admits him to the show, and the pass goes to his wife, a relative or a friend.

Many watch the show from parked cars on the hill above. It can't be assumed that all these are trying to avoid paying. Maybe some prefer the comfort of their cars to the hard seats in the grandstand. Perhaps if a collection were taken among them, they would contribute to the gate.

Others find ways to get in without paying. Some stay on the grounds after the afternoon show and see the night show without a ticket. Others come in through unpatrolled corners of the grounds.

On the more positive side, perhaps some additional effort could be made to build up the gate. It is quite possible that an advance ticket sale would help. Maybe an organization, seeking funds, would push such a sale on a commission basis. Perhaps the rodeo committee and fair board should consider a season ticket, or even a family ticket which has proved so helpful at the Pendleton Round-Up.

Another idea that might obtain cooperation from civic-minded businesses would be to give rodeo tickets in promotion of their goods—a \$2 rodeo ticket with the purchase of merchandise amounting to \$15 or \$20, for instance.

The entire community has a stake in this. A new grandstand would be a great thing, not only for the fair and rodeo, but also for football games and other public events held at the grounds.

The rodeo brings people to our community. It brings additional revenue to the community. It advertises Morrow county and puts it on the map.

As long as we stage it every year, let's make it pay its way, and let's work towards that new grandstand. We need it.

A Bad Passer is Dead Wrong

Too many of the people in this area drive our highways as if he were the only person on the road. This is a contributing cause to many of the accidents we suffer in this county.

Since traffic is light compared to that around larger cities, a driver is inclined to get the idea that it is a pretty safe bet that no other car is coming around that blind curve or that he can make a pass where visibility is limited without getting into trouble.

Our very bad accident record proves this to be dead wrong. Consider the number of accidents that have occurred within the past year or two between the city limits and the Mol-lahan corner. We can think of four within a relatively short time where occupants were either seriously injured or the cars were demolished, or both.

The accident early Saturday morning that resulted in serious injuries to two girls was the latest.

As we understand it, the auto in which the two were riding—one driving and the other a passenger—was forced off the road when another driver coming in the opposite direction, passed a third car into their path.

There is absolutely too much of this illegal passing. Speed, too, has been a factor in the accidents on this stretch of highway, which because of its dips and curves, should be driven with the greatest of prudence.

A maximum speed of 50 miles per hour in the area of the Kinzua mill and on out to the "S" curve would seem reasonable, but many drive it at much higher speeds.

Unfortunately, very few citations have been issued as a result of these accidents. We think there should be a crack-down on them. Too many of our people, particularly young persons, are getting seriously hurt, some with permanent injuries.

When a driver will not operate his vehicle responsibly on his own volition, the law is the only recourse. Too many feel sympathetic to the violators — perhaps because people live closely in a community such as ours and no one wants to make trouble for the other. But the penalty is high.

When the driver who does not operate his vehicle under the prescribed rules of the road can go free, he has little deterrent from causing accidents at some future date.

But it isn't only the wanton driver that might cause trouble.

Because our highways are crooked and wavy, and because there is a long distance between points, there is a temptation for any driver in a hurry to "straighten them out," drift to the wrong side of the road or cut a corner.

While the two girls spend long hours in the hospital and

Note to Subscribers In Portland Area:

During the past two weeks, the Gazette-Times has received letters from several subscribers in the Portland-Vancouver area stating that their papers have been reaching them as late as Wednesday following publication.

Papers are dispatched to all points from Heppner at the same time and leave the local post office in the mail departing Thursday evening. A check with Postmaster James Driscoll confirms that they are packaged properly and sorted according to post office requirements under the Zip Code system.

The postmaster has checked with Pendleton and believes they are promptly routed from that point. He is now working with the Portland post office to determine if a delay is being encountered in distribution there.

Since there have been similar reports from at least six subscribers, the condition may be general to all Portland area subscribers. The Gazette-Times has a long list in Portland.

The publishers, in cooperation with Postmaster Driscoll, will continue working to determine what the trouble may be. They appreciate any reports that will keep them posted on the type of service being received. The recent letters state that the delay in service now being experienced has been noticed for about the past three months.

The publishers are anxious to see that papers are distributed promptly and are glad that subscribers value their papers enough to be concerned about the delay.

Gene Heliker left Sunday for Salem to participate in activities of "freshmen week" at Willamette University. The first part of the week will be freshmen camp at Silver Creek Falls, and registration will start September 1. His college address will be Room 207, Mathews Hall, Willamette University, Salem.

are confined for months in casts during their recovery period when they should be continuing their educations as they intended, the rest of us might remember that when we go out on the highways, other people are using the roads, too.

We can very well stay where we belong on the highway—on the right side—and not pass unless it is done legally with the oncoming lane free and unobstructed.

Anyone who doesn't is a potential killer.

Down But Not Out

With the circuit court decision, ruled in Marion county early this week, that the 1 1/2% property tax limitation measure doesn't have enough signatures to be placed on the ballot, it could be that the initiative is dead.

It seems quite clear, though, that if the state Supreme Court doesn't reverse the decision, the ghost of the measure will rise to haunt us.

All the persons who worked so hard to get the signatures, and all the signers who supported it, cannot help but feel some bitterness.

It still can have repercussions on the election as the thwarted proponents of the measure vent some wrath on the candidates. One of the prime targets is Secretary of State Tom McCall, who is pretty much an innocent victim of the dilemma concerning the matter.

Most of the major candidates in both parties in the state have expressed themselves opposed to the 1 1/2% limitation, but they felt that the voters should have the right to express themselves. So, while it is possible there could be some secret satisfaction in seeing this rebuff by the court, most of them are probably genuinely sorry that it will not be on the ballot.

Reason for this is that while the measure may be knocked out on a technicality, the strong feeling still remains among the proponents. Being frustrated in their well-organized and efficient attempt to get the matter on the ballot could only react to intensify their feelings.

Had the matter come to a vote, it could have been settled. If it passed, the entire state would have to face up to the dilemma in which it certainly would have placed itself. Had it failed, the opponents could say that reason prevailed, and the proponents would have to accept the defeat.

Secretary McCall is in trouble because he used the total vote for an uncontested judicial candidate in establishing the number of petitioners necessary to get the measure on the ballot. This was the same yardstick as had been used for prior initiatives and indicates to reasoning people that he acted in good faith and with the best information immediately at his command.

However, the court takes the position that the total vote in a contested judicial race on the same ballot should be the yardstick for the number of signatures necessary. Since the signatures obtained by the deadline is short of this number, the measure is ruled off.

It is quite possible that the Supreme Court may reverse the lower court, but at this time, this seems doubtful.

If it doesn't get on the ballot, the legislature must realize the dire necessity of getting busy at the upcoming session to relieve the burden on property tax. If this isn't done, it is sure that there will be another initiative petition and it will have an abundance of signatures.

School districts and other taxing agencies that would lose considerable revenue if the 1 1/2% measure became law might be greatly relieved at this court decision, but the ghost of the measure will remain until substantial property tax relief becomes a reality.

We share the feelings expressed by Rep. Irvin Mann and others who are very much opposed to the 1 1/2% limitation but who believe that it would be far better that it come to a vote of the people. If the opponents couldn't put over their case against it and marshal enough strength to defeat it, the will of the majority should prevail.

Some interesting thoughts on the matter come to mind now that the measure is at least temporarily thwarted. It is quite likely that the final Supreme Court ruling will not be made in time to meet the printers' deadline on the state voting pamphlets. Should arguments be included in the booklets or left out?

Also, opponents now undoubtedly will relax their efforts towards defeating the measure. What happens, then, if the Supreme Court reverses the decision at a later time? There would be a scramble to get re-organized and get out information against it. Those convinced that the measure is a poor step should be prepared for this contingency.

Finally, it appears that this delay on the Supreme Court hearing might put county clerks on the spot, trying to get their pre-election work organized but perhaps being held up on the final decision—not to mention the printers (like us) who have to get the ballots off the presses in time for pre-election deadlines!

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

CONGRESSMAN Bob Duncan proved a friendly and chatty subject when we asked to take his picture on Al Bunch's horse prior to the start of the rodeo parade.

While we stepped back to get the camera in focus, he said, "You know why news photographers always take two pictures of a politician?"

"No," said we.

"They're afraid the first one won't be had enough," he said with his broad grin.

The picture printed in this paper is the first of two we took of Cong. Duncan. The reader can judge for himself.

It occurs to us that it would be pretty hard to take a bad picture of Bob Duncan. His congenial manner, broad smile, direct approach and obligating manner make him a photogenic subject.

TAD MILLER almost bounced when he hit the ground at the rodeo Saturday afternoon in a fall from his horse during Morrow county amateur calf roping. His saddle slipped as he was galloping towards his calf, intent on roping the animal.

Everyone in the stands groaned for him when he hit. The end of his lariat seemed to be tangled around his neck, and as he lay on the ground, the onlookers—too far away to help—were fearful his horse would take off and drag him. But Tad got up in a few moments, then fell down again, indicating that he was in a little worse shape than he thought.

In a minute or so, assistance came, and he was out of trouble. But the doctor grounded him for the rest of the rodeo and insisted that he go home Saturday night, instead of staying for the evening show.

Tad, who had done such an admirable job in directing preparations for the rodeo as committee chairman, should have had one of the awards for "hard

luck cowboy," but he wouldn't have accepted it if others had insisted he receive it.

He was competing in the calf roping in the same manner he had participated in preparing the show — with all his energies. We felt quite disappointed for him that he could not be out on the field Sunday directing the event when he had put so much into it.

But Jerry Dougherty, another director, came through and did an excellent job as arena director.

Everyone was glad that Tad wasn't more seriously hurt, and all feel the same way about Becky Fulleton, Bruce Noble and Sue Ellen Greenup, all of whom were other rodeo casualties. Their efforts showed the spirit and keen competition of the show.

ONE FEATURE in the Sunday afternoon show wasn't listed on the program, but it captured the enthusiasm of the crowd. It was the impromptu performance of Blowsnake who quickly disposed of cowboy Mike Walker in the second section of bareback riding.

Then the Northwest Rodeo association's Bareback Horse of the Year went into his act. He romped around the arena and out-galloped his pursuers. When they got close to him, he would cut away and outwit them. Blowsnake gave a beautiful demonstration of grace and fire before they finally ganged up on him and got the beautiful animal back into the holding pens. But he stopped the show for nearly 10 minutes and the crowd loved it.

ONE OF THE sidelights of the rodeo that we enjoy greatly is watching the work of the pickup men, as we have written before. They ride as hard as the performers and keep right at it through the show. It is amazing how they grab riders, pulling leather, off a bronc or a bareback horse. At this show, Norm Durly, Frank Johnson and Jack McCarty did the pickup duties. We also noticed Howard Johnson was working at it, too. Howard is the stock contractor.

ONE COMMENT heard at the parade from a Heppnerite: "I'm real proud of lone. They have done a great job in this parade."

How true. The lone Rainbow Girls' float, "The Wizard of Oz," was a very good one that took a lot of work and effort, and Director Arnie Hedman had his lone High school band high-stepping and playing as if they had been practicing for months.

Again, the neighbors from Hermiston, Condon, and Pendleton came through with beautiful floats to contribute to the success of the parade.

IT WAS good to see Jack and Fran Locke back for the rodeo. They were on vacation from his position with First National Bank at Gresham and came "home" for the event. Jack served as secretary for the rodeo last year, and before the week-end was over, he and Fran pitched in to help John and Clista Venard.

That matter of being rodeo secretary is a whale of a job. When 200 cowboys come to enter a dozen different events in all kinds of combinations and making all kinds of requests, it gets to be enough to drive a man out of his mind. Had to feel proud of the way John Venard stood up under fire in his first year in the position.

Lenna Smith, fair secretary, just got through with the hustle and bustle of fair and then pitched in after rodeo to write checks for the winners and help clean things up. We could hardly have a fair and rodeo without Lenna, and no matter how hectic it gets, she always keeps a cool head and flashes a warm smile.

Back to Jack and Fran Locke: They like Heppner the most, and they are still here in spirit. Eastern Oregon is for them.

THIS WEEK the Gazette-Times is in the back-to-school business after being in the fair and rodeo business last week — in



READY for the Labor Day water ski show at McNary Yacht club is this trio, shown performing on hydratoils. Jackie Howton stands on the shoulders of Tom Heimbigner (left) and Frank Halvorsen (right). All have been outstanding in water skiing achievements in many different shows. (Lyons Photo).

Annual Water Ski Show Due Monday At Yacht Club

Annual water ski show of McNary Yacht club will be at 2 p.m. on Monday (Labor Day), near Hat Rock on the Columbia River. As usual, the show is presented as a community service at no admission charge.

Because of the unique, difficult and often dangerous acts performed, the McNary Yacht club show is well known and publicized throughout boating and skiing organizations as one of the top shows in the nation.

This year the skiers have added many more spectacular stunts. They will start the show with an 11-man pyramid on single skies. Then two daredevils on kites will do crossunders behind the same boat. Seventeen skiers behind the same boat while three go over the jump and Mark Halvorsen of lone, cuts underneath will be the next act.

Tom Heimbigner, also of lone, will do many novel stunts, usually with pretty girls participating. His newest is a double carry in which twin girls do an angel stand and layback at the same time. This probably has never been done anywhere before.

Joe and Frank Halvorsen will perform many difficult acts. Frank has become outstanding on hydratoils.

These four young men will be involved in the barefoot acts. As many as five skiers have done this act behind one boat at the same time.

Some of the best of the nation's great jumpers will show you how it looks when jumping 120 feet as Bill Jeppe and

the commercial printing portion of the business, we mean.

The crew is getting out student handbooks that will be new in all schools this year. We can't help but comment that they are very fine little books that will give a lot of very helpful information not only to students, but to parents as well.

All the school rules and regulations, many of the district policies, athletic schedules, school calendar, subjects offered and much other data are included in the books. Principals in the various schools compiled them, although Heppner High's will not be a printed book but will be mimeographed.

Principal Dick Carpenter wants the students to assist in formulating school rules and Heppner High will get by with a mimeographed handbook this year, after which it probably will have a printed booklet, too.

In view of the feeling last year that school communications needed to be improved, these handbooks should be received gratefully for they surely will improve communications.

Mark Halvorsen stage a distance contest and Tom Heimbigner tries to find time to get into the act.

Steve Lindstrom and Gary Heimbigner will team as announcers to keep the public informed. Both of these young college men have had considerable experience on the mike in their respective school careers. Souvenir picture programs, featuring most of the acts, will be available at a very reasonable cost.

Ray Heimbigner, show director, has extended an invitation to the public.

"We invite our many friends of the area to spend the day as guests of McNary Yacht club," he said. "If you don't feel like packing a picnic lunch, there will be a concession stand serving food until one o'clock." Heimbigner also will tow most of the acts for the show.

Larry Holliday and a friend, Arthur Hall, were visitors during the week-end at the home of Larry's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Pieper.



Coming Events

LABOR DAY WATER SKI SHOW

McNary Yacht Club, Hat Rock Park
Monday, Sept. 5, 2:00 p.m.
Always a good exciting show.

OPENING OF SCHOOLS

All Morrow County Schools,
Tuesday, Sept. 6, 8:45 a.m.
Heppner High Special Assembly, 8:35 a.m.
Registration following.

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 7:00 p.m.
Episcopal Parish Hall, potluck and entertainment.

HEPPNER SWIMMING POOL

Last day of swimming, Sunday, Sept. 4, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

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ANNOUNCING the OPENING

- Rene's Beauty Shop -

On Tuesday, September 6
At 360 Aiken Street

HOURS: TUESDAY through FRIDAY,
9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

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