

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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1 1/2% Would Threaten Local Control

While the property tax seems to be subject to more kicks and criticism than any other tax that John Q. Public pays, there are some things in its favor.

One of the foremost of these is that the citizen has more control over the property tax than any other tax that he pays. Much of the property tax load is imposed because residents of the area have voted for it, or at least theoretically have approved it. For instance, the public votes on the school budget each year, and the tax (above the 6% limitation) wouldn't be imposed unless the majority voted in favor.

While there is no vote on budgets which hold within the 6% limitation (such as the City of Heppner budget and the Morrow County budget), public hearings are held annually and the budgets are published for all to review. Anyone who has criticism has the right to be heard, and it isn't too far-fetched to believe that if there is something in the budgets that the public really doesn't want, the people have it within their power to shout long and loud enough to change it and cut expenses.

It would take considerably more organization and shouting to do much to alter the state income tax; and the federal income tax is so far removed from the average citizen that any cry he may make about outlandish expenditure is just a howl of the wind.

The property tax has serious faults. One is that assessments can never be thoroughly fair, because they must be made pretty much on subjective judgment, although criteria have been established in the hope of making them as equitable as possible.

And by our own doing, largely, we have placed too much of a burden on the property taxpayer. His ownership of property may not be a true reflection of his ability to pay, which is supposed to be one of the most important principles of a just tax. But the load continues to mount.

One reason that the property tax is subject to so much criticism is the very fact that it is controlled locally and therefore is vulnerable to change. It is the one tax that an outraged taxpayer has somewhere near within reach. He can't, by his vote or by protesting, cut the federal income tax; he can't lower the state income tax unless he can wield enough influence on legislators to get them to consider it; but he can, in his own sphere, create enough fuss to influence the local property tax.

But what would he do if the 1 1/2% property tax limitation measure should be approved, provided the State Supreme Court rules next week that it should be on the ballot?

The taxpayer who votes for the limitation is at the same moment signing away his right to influence the one tax over which he can exert some real control. The measure gives the State Tax Commission the power to adjust local budgets and taxes within code areas in cases where the 1 1/2% limitation is exceeded. This, incidentally, is a job that the commission doesn't want at all. It means only sweat, blood, toil and tears. But it would give to the state, a power that had been reserved to the local people.

While the sponsors of the 1 1/2% measure have the motive of cutting property taxes, there are loopholes in their proposal which actually could result in higher property taxes.

For instance, by a certain majority of voters a school district could vote itself out of the limitation. Relieved of this taxing load, other taxing agencies in the code areas involved would be free to hike their taxes clear to the 1 1/2% limitation, and this would mean more taxes, not less taxes. And poor old John Q. Taxpayer couldn't do much about it, because he signed away his control to the State Tax Commission!

The old six per cent limitation would be abolished.

It won't be known probably until late next week whether the State Supreme Court will reverse the lower court that ruled the 1 1/2% measure off the ballot. But if it does come up for a vote in November, John Q. Taxpayer better think on some of these angles before he marks his X before "Yes" on this measure.

Why Two-Year Terms?

Seven of the nine elective positions in Heppner city government will be on the ballot at the November general election. This is somewhat unusual and is due to a combination of circumstances.

Regular terms of four will expire as of January 1, 1967, and they must stand for reelection if they wish to continue in their positions. These include the positions of treasurer, recorder, and two councilmen.

The mayor, W. C. Rosewall, is serving by appointment following the death of Al Lamb, and so the mayoralty is up for election as prescribed by the city charter (an appointee serves until the next regular election). Two councilmen are serving by appointment. Bill Cox was named to replace Haskell Sharrard, who resigned, and Harlan McCurdy, Jr., is serving in Mayor Rosewall's former council position, left vacant when Rosewall was named mayor.

It is conceivable, though not at all probable, that there could be almost a complete turnover of city officers in one full sweep, leaving only two with any experience to carry on as a nucleus in operating the city.

The situation could be relieved a bit if the charter did not call for two-year terms for mayor, treasurer and recorder. Of course, the mayor in this case would have to stand for election anyway since he is serving by appointment.

But it is a little difficult to understand why terms of two years were set for these three positions while the councilmen are elected for four-year terms.

It is difficult enough to get good elective city officials without imposing on them the necessity of running for election every two years. Four-year terms would seem to offer more security, particularly in the position of city recorder. This job carries considerable responsibility, and once a good candidate is elected, it would seem fitting that the official be encouraged to remain in the office. Actually, this office, being directly responsible to the council, is one that might well be left to appointment by the council, which would seek a qualified and capable official, and not be subject to election at all.

The same might be true for the city treasurer. The mayor is one who should be elected, of course, but it would seem reasonable that he be chosen for a four-year term instead of a two-year term. The shorter term hardly gives one a chance to become oriented to his position before

TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor: I thought Heppner people would be interested in a bit of news concerning Ellis Thomson of New York City. He is a cousin of James and Rod Thomson and left Heppner in 1936.

He is completing his fourth trip to Europe, having left August 19 to fly to Amsterdam and returned from Brussels September 9. He had a Eurail pass which means unlimited railroad travel in Europe. He planned to spend a day in Stockholm, Sweden; then to Vienna, Austria; Sicily and Italy. He writes, "Don't worry about my spending much money in France. I'll be in Paris only a day or two." He also adds, "I must say Eddie Burchell has done well."

Then he writes, "I don't think they believe me in the office when I tell them Josephine Mahoney and I used to be the best dancers in Eastern Oregon, but can you think of anybody who was better?"

Ellis says his brother, Earl, of Portland is sending him some sliced rock for the top of his coffee table. He writes, "I can hardly wait to see them. I'm covering my coffee table with them, so I'll have a touch of Oregon in my apartment."

Ellis attends a painting class each Monday night and thinks he is improving in his work.

He is employed in the office of the New York Central Railroad company.

Very truly yours,
Josephine Mahoney Baker

To the Editor:

I always read the "paper from home" completely and all editorials of the papers we take are of interest to me. I read your editorial, I think, week before last on Gov. Hatfield. I appreciated your good words for him as we remain as interested in him politically as if we lived in Oregon.

The enclosed copy of an interview with him was taken from "Decision," a magazine put out by the Rev. Billy Graham and his staff—interesting!

In my humble opinion Mr. Hatfield is a gentleman of high principle and stands head and shoulders above most politicians. He is a man the entire west is proud of and not only ex-Oregonians.

His opponent seems like a good man but I sincerely believe the governor to be better prepared and more able to accomplish more things for Oregon and the Northwest. I think this is a good time to leave political bias at home when going to the polls.

With best wishes,
Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Thomas J. Wells
1000 S. E. Friedel Dr.
Vancouver, Wn. 98664

To the Editor:
Dear Shermans:

We certainly have enjoyed the old home paper. It has been just like a letter from our many friends.

We were sorry to have missed you when you were on the coast. When you come again be sure to look us up.

Best regards to all our friends.
Sincerely,
Hillard & Lucille Brown
114 Ammons Rd.
Toledo, Oregon

he is subject to election again. This, one would think, would tend to discourage good candidates, although Mayor Lamb served a number of terms and was returned each time by the voters.

It would be reasonable to amend the charter to make all elective positions four-year terms.

In the same vein, representatives to the state legislature and representatives to the U. S. Congress have to battle for reelection every two years, if they wish to continue. While there may be good reasons for this, it would seem to be discrimination against these two groups of office holders. Senators and most other elective positions are elected for longer terms.

One would think that more interest would be attracted to these positions if they were for longer tenure. How many people want to engage in a struggle for their jobs every two years?

Some might reason that officials may keep in closer touch with constituents, knowing that they must have the votes to return every two years. But on the other hand, the attention to election biennially takes time from the heavy load of duties they have to perform in government.

It would seem better all around if minimum terms of four years be set for these candidates. It would probably be a pretty tough job to change them on the state and national levels, but it shouldn't be difficult to amend the city charter to make changes in the City of Heppner.

A City

(By GILES FRENCH, in Sherman County Journal)

There seems to be no cure for a city; with three billion humans on earth many of them must live in cities. Yet, we cannot help but join the ranks of those critics who pronounce cities as an eventual end of civilization.

Because of the Supreme Court edict on legislative apportionment there is no effective opposition to spending federal money to rehabilitate cities. They do need something but there is no assurance that our American cure for every thing—the money poutice—will do much for cities. Certainly it will not do as much for cities as it will for the politicians who appropriate it.

Many cities have already made great improvements. Streets have been turned into freeways and auto transportation made relatively easy; there is seldom a shortage of schools even though some are old—age should not render a school useless as readily as does the lack of ideas in teaching. Many cities have adequate public buildings. Eastern cities complain of slums—the modern word is ghettos, which isn't accurate. Rebuilding slums won't eradicate them; it is the people who make the slums, not the reverse.

What is wrong with cities is built into them by the fact of crowding thousands of people together. There is nothing for them to do. The very fact of crowding gives employment to many in the service trades; the utilities, laundries, clerks. Much of a city's energy is spent in making the wheels go 'round; in taking in each other's washing to use an old expressive phrase. There is little creative in the work of most city dwellers; they shuffle papers, deliver goods and perform other simple services that neither inspire nor exalt. They never enjoy the pleasure of producing a crop or raising a calf or anything so tangible and satisfying to the human kind.

Children in a city are doomed to an existence most unnatural; there is nothing to do. The monotony of city streets arouses no curiosity about the geography around them. Public recreation is limited and of necessity is more regulated than recreation. Small yards require little work; there is no room for animals—one of the best ways for youth to learn. No wonder they gather in gangs and sometimes become delinquents.

Cities demand great quantities of water and the lack of it may eventually limit their size; really the world can hardly afford to use a resource in short supply—as is water—to flush toilets. Cities demand paved streets and many a quiet street, paved and curbed, is traveled by no more than 20 vehicles a day. Cities want and probably will get a larger percentage of the things the world produces, if such avarice causes a decline in the productivity of the country cities may have to be abandoned. But where will all the people go?

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

ONE DASSENT say too much again the rain in this country, but Alan Martin, new elementary school principal, called this moist Wednesday morning and asked what our average rainfall is. We told him that it is in the neighborhood of 13 inches.

"Does it always come all at once?" he queried.

It sure puts the Pendletonians on the spot. Ranchers there surely love the rain, and they surely need it, but those connected with the Round-Up on this day must be a bit bitter about all that mixture of hydrogen (2 parts) and oxygen (1 part) that is probably making their opening miserable.

THE TALK at school board meeting Monday night turned to teachers' aides. Chairman Irvin Rauch remarked that he felt it would be necessary for the district to rely more and more on teachers' aides to help keep costs down and help solve the teacher shortage problem.

In the back row, we couldn't help but ask the facetious question of Principal Martin, sitting beside us, "If the district should have any 'lemons' as teachers, would their helpers be 'lemon aides'?"

But it is hard to top this Martin. "I don't know about that," he whispered back "but a helper in the instrumental music department prepared and more able to accomplish more things for Oregon and the Northwest. I think this is a good time to leave political bias at home when going to the polls.

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partment would surely be a "band aide."

AND JUST to prove that school board meetings aren't always grim and boring affairs without moments of humor:

The directors' attention was focused on the construction schedule of Riverside High school, which has faced many delays, postponements and setbacks. Among the most interested listeners was Ron Daniels, Riverside principal.

Supt. David Potter pointed out that the current schedule calls for advertising for construction bids on November 3, opening bids December 6, awarding contract December 14, start of construction December 26, completion of construction December 15, 1967, and moving into the new school December 26, 1967.

Chairman Rauch looked at Principal Daniels and exclaimed, "Merry Christmas, Ron!"

A PENDLETON church received credit for a very beautiful float in the Dressup parade in Pendleton Saturday when the parade moved into the Round-Up grounds.

The announcer apparently couldn't find any information on the Heppner Soroptimists' float (grand sweepstakes winner in the Morrow county rodeo parade), and told the crowd he didn't know whose float this was but thought it was that of a church in Pendleton.

This was a bit of a disappointment for the Soroptimists and their crew who had labored long to build the float and had devoted a great deal of effort this year to make it so that it could be transported. Bill and Joyce Johnson, Wavel Wilkinson and wife Helen worked on it in Pendleton from early afternoon until parade time, after Dick Wilkinson had hauled it to Pendleton. They didn't get home until about midnight after getting it in shape for he return trip.

Since the principal reason for taking the float to Pendleton is to boost the home town of Heppner, it is a bit deflating when the effort is credited to a Pendleton church at the time of its public recognition.

Someone said that a radio announcer noted the oversight, however, and broadcast the correct information over the air. The Sorops didn't win any prize this year. At previous Dressup parades they have been first prize winners, and this year's float was among the prettiest they have made. The gals suspect that they were placed in the wrong category which put them in competition with some of the real lavish floats that come from Milton-Freewater and other places.

Nevertheless, they enjoyed going over and don't expect to win prizes, particularly. But next year, they say—if they go next year—they are going to have one big word in huge letters across the float: "HEPPNER."

AN INTERESTING bit on the hospitality of a very kind Pendleton woman: When the Souni float was parked on a street with the crew preparing it for the parade, a woman living nearby came out, brought them ice water (it was a hot day) and was a cordial impromptu hostess. She opened her home for Sara Miller to change clothes and did everything she could to make the visitors welcome. She is Mrs. Bob Lockwood, 114 7th Street.

The interesting part is that Mrs. Lockwood was keenly interested in the Miss America pageant because her nephew is engaged to Miss Oklahoma, and lived in her former home town. The pageant was to be concluded that night, and she was very excited about the event. Miss Oklahoma had been one of the preliminary winners.

This got the Sorop gals excited about the pageant, too, and so after the Dressup parade was over, they were anxious to find out who had become Miss America.

When they learned of the winner, they were almost as thrilled as the woman who had befriended them. It was Miss Oklahoma!

AFTER LAST week's squib on the flies and yellowjackets at Bull Prairie, we received a copy of Don Moffatt's Mill City Enterprise and noted this helpful hint on yellowjackets:

"You don't need a fancy chemical arsenal or a platoon of kids armed with flyswatters to keep yellowjackets from invading a campsite, picnic or outdoor barbecue.

"A mangy old fish skeleton, a pan of water and a little vegetable oil can be turned into a defensive weapon capable of drowning a small army of foraging hornets in their own greed.

"Don't laugh. Oregon State University extension wildlife specialist Andrew Landforce says that the homemade yellow-jacket trap is just as sure-fire as a Molotov cocktail on a thatched roof and can be set up in about the time it takes to blacken a hot dog over an open fire.

"The way it works is simple. Just fill a pan or other container with water to about two or three inches from the top. Hang the skinned fish, tail down, about one-half inch above the

Low Level Flying Missions Slated

Aircraft from the 939th Troop Carrier Group, a Portland-based Air Force Reserve unit, will be doing low level flying missions September 17 and 18.

The flights will extend along an irregular route in the area of The Dalles, Grass Valley, Maupin, Warm Springs, Madras, Decker Ranch, Kent, Johnson and return to The Dalles area.

As many as ten C-119 "Flying boxcars" will fly between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., Saturday and between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Sunday. The day flights will be conducted at 500 feet above the ground and the night flights at 1000 feet.

In laying out the routes of travel, every effort was made to avoid towns and airports.

The training missions are part of the unit's annual operational readiness inspection in which its pilots and navigators are required to demonstrate their ability to perform various maneuvers.

Father Kopp Coming Sunday for Service

Father Clarence Kopp of Cove will be at All Saints' Episcopal church for Holy Communion at 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 18. A coffee hour will follow the service. The Rev. Dirk Rihart will be in Condon to hold services in that community.

Coffee hour gatherings after church are now being held in the rooms between the church and the parish hall in order that Sunday School may continue while the parents are visiting.

Mrs. Max (Grace) Buschke and Mrs. Carey (Alice) Hastings went to Portland Saturday to attend the Holiday Market on behalf of their apparel store, Miladies. Accompanying them were Linda Shipp of Connell, Wn., granddaughter of Mrs. Buschke. The market was in the Memorial Coliseum Plaza and in the Royal Building. They returned Monday afternoon.

water in the center of the container. Then pour on enough oil to cover the surface.

"The fish attracts the yellow-jacket who cuts off a hunk of the meat, tucks it under its stomach and takes off like a fat trapeze artist with an armload of rocks. The yellow-jacket loses altitude after the vertical launch from the fish, does a bellyflop into the tank and is trapped by the oil.

"Landforce says it's not uncommon to trap from 200 to 300 yellowjackets in a short period of time with the simple device. Fish makes the best bait because chunks can be cut off by the yellowjackets. Landforce advises not to get any of the oil on the fish, since that seems to blunt the aroma."

Well, now, we don't expect to go on any more picnics this year, but hunters might take note and give this a try if the yellowjackets are still around in quantity when deer season opens.

Included in the Medicine Show will be Donna & Cheryl, folksingers; Delores Patterson, song stylist; "The Pearl of the Prairie," Day Laib and his Jazz Cats; Dixieland South Pendleton style; Dr. Horace Droppins' now famous Drottetes and Julie Patterson, "The Hello Dolly" girl.

Add to this package of entertainment the thrill and color of Pioneer Morning, Saturday, a time when homage is paid to the Pioneers who carved their homes out of the wild west, with the displays of historical objects in the windows of the business places as well as the free rides in many horse-drawn conveyances of the days gone by, and you have a wonderful time waiting for you on Pendleton's Main Street.

Main Street Show During Roundup Bills Henchmen

Billed as the "Greatest Free Show in America," the Main Street Show sponsored by the Main Street Cowboys on the four central business blocks of Pendleton during the Pendleton Round Up is set to entertain the 30,000-plus visitors expected from Wednesday to Saturday this week.

Included in the show will be the Henchmen, rock 'n roll band from Heppner, and the Caballeros from Medford, Oregon's answer to the Tijuana Brass. The Henchmen will be on Main Street for dancing Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The Caballeros will entertain on stage Friday night, Saturday morning and Saturday night.

Starting Wednesday night and running almost continuously until Saturday midnight will be the amusement rides on the Union Pacific parking lot at the end of Main Street.

Also entertaining will be the Falcons Junior Drum & Bugle Corps and the Highland Lassies from Athena; the Pendleton Rangers Junior Drum & Bugle Corps and the usual gun fights and other impromptu activities sponsored by the Main Street Cowboys.

A special attraction this year will be the performance of real old time melodrama on stage on Main Street with the College Community Theatre group providing the actors and actresses.

The crowd will be expected to boo, hiss and cheer as the occasion calls for.

Other acts include the Sykes Trio, the championship Waitsburg (Wn.) Lions Barbershop Quartet, Chuck Kennison's Ace-A-Ways, Lloyd Wanzer, champion old time fiddler from Wier, Idaho, and the Frisbee Family along with free pony rides and other activities.

The Mainstreeters famed Medicine Wagon Show is all new this year with a group of semi-professional acts headed up by Dr. Horace Droppins, purveyor of mirth and a wonderful elixir he claims will help anything.

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