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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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WESLEY A. SHERMAN
Editor and Publisher

HELEN E. SHERMAN
Associate Publisher

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'The Right to Get Away with It'

"We have manufactured a new American right—the right to get away with it," said Robert Notson, executive editor of the Oregonian and president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, in a significant speech at the Oregon Press Conference in Eugene Friday.

Notson, who lived in Heppner as a youth, declared that growing efforts to protect the "rights" of criminals are threatening basic American concepts of freedom.

"No free system can long endure if the public is denied access to information and the right to observe the acts of their public officers," he said. "And this goes for law enforcement and the administration of justice. Too many lawyers and judges are more interested in certain features of the Bill of Rights than in the preamble to the Constitution which states that the purpose of it all is to promote the domestic tranquility and the public welfare."

Notson said that the issue of free press versus fair trial has been badly overdrawn.

"Let it be observed that there are many more cases reversed because of prejudicial statements of attorneys . . . than has been the case with the press," he said.

Since only about 10 per cent of criminal cases actually come to trial, recent reports recommending restrictions on pre-trial publicity would mean that vast numbers of criminal cases would be disposed of with little or no public knowledge.

"I can think of no surer way to invite corruption among our law enforcement officers and to bring the courts into disrepute than this proposal for exchanging open justice for closed justice," the Oregonian's executive editor said. "The public has a right to distrust justice administered in secret."

The press is blamed for weaknesses in the law resulting from the failure of the law to adjust to modern conditions, such as the speed of communications, Notson declared.

Criminal courts operate on a system of presenting witnesses and physical evidence to jurors "who have not formed an opinion prior to hearing the evidence in court."

But what is to be done in a situation like the Ruby case, Notson asked, where millions of Americans watching television actually saw Ruby shoot Oswald?

"If the evidence is absolute, if all the potential jurors are in effect themselves eye witnesses, if they know beyond any doubt that the accused is guilty, then what?" Notson asked.

"Then," say the legal purists, "Ruby could not have a fair trial."

Notson called this "nonsense," adding, "What is a fair trial? Fair to whom? Must the likes of Ruby be turned loose because the law has not caught up with the times and the facts?"

"The legal profession has been so preoccupied with the rights of wrong-doers that it is getting increasingly difficult to convict the guilty," Notson declared. "They even talk about notoriously guilty men not having the 'right of fair trial.'"

"I believe that every man should have his day in court, but I do not think society ought to be obliged to provide escape hatches for guilty men. With the highest motives, our courts have been creating a new and debased ethical standard—a new system in which the pressures have been shifted from the wrongdoer and placed upon the backs of the law enforcement officer and prosecutor. And now the pressures are being turned on the press."

Notson's significant words should be well considered by the public at a time when the federal law enforcement agencies are declaring that the nation's crime rate may soar to as much as three times the previous year. . . . at a time when officers from city level to the federal level are constantly discouraged when they arrest offenders guilty beyond doubt only to see them go free . . . at a time when the Supreme Court by slim 5-to-4 margins is making decisions that make it ever easier on the criminals.

With all respect to the principle of protecting the rights of the individual, this seems to be a time when fine technicalities are steadily encroaching on logic and common sense.

This "right to get away with it" needs the critical scrutiny of intelligent, thinking people who believe in a free society governed by law and order. Particularly needed is some sincere soul-searching by those in the legal profession.

There is no provision in the United States constitution for the "right to get away with it."

Deserves 'Do Pass' Stamp

You're driving down the highway and you're in a hurry. Perhaps you have to meet a plane or a train in the city. Maybe you have someone ill in the car who needs to get to a hospital. Or it could be you have an appointment that won't wait.

Suddenly you come to a long line of cars with a slow moving vehicle creeping along at the head of it, the driver apparently oblivious to the facts that his is not the only vehicle on earth and he is not the only person here to enjoy rights and privileges.

Sound familiar? Has it ever happened to you?

At long last, we hope, the legislature may do something about it. Senate Bill 319, sponsored by Sen. Robert Elfstrom, Rep. Norman Howard and others, would require the driver of a slow-moving vehicle on a two-lane road to pull off the roadway at the first available opportunity to allow an overtaking vehicle to pass. "Slow-moving" is defined as one traveling 10 miles per hour less than the legally designated speed.

Another provision of the bill is that on multiple-laned highways, a driver must travel in the lane farthest to the right available to him except when passing other vehicles, or when traveling faster than vehicles in the righthand lanes, or when preparing to make a left turn.

Such measures have already been adopted in other states and are needed in Oregon. There is every reason to provide room on our highways for slow drivers who may be elderly or who may merely want to take time to enjoy the scenery. However, if they have the time to travel at speeds well below the average, they should also have the time to pull off and let the other fellow go by.

The legislation could help reduce accidents because it might lessen impetuous passing by impatient drivers who are under pressure to get to a certain place within a certain time. There is little to be said for the inconsiderate driver who, by proceeding at a snail's pace, is intruding on the time of all those whom he delays.

This bill deserves a hearty "do pass" recommendation.



CONTRACTOR HOWARD KEITHLEY (Right) and his crew have a good view of Heppner (background) as they work at the county reservoir on the hill high above the courthouse. They are engaged in putting on a new cover and building up a wall of the concrete reservoir. (G-T Photo).

County Reservoir Gets Remodel Job

Howard Keithley, contractor, was engaged this week in doing remodeling work to the county reservoir in order to bring the facility to standards required by the State Health Department.

The reservoir, fed from a county well, supplies water to the courthouse and to Pioneer Memorial hospital.

Water at the well and that coming into the reservoir was found to be pure, County Commissioner Jack VanWinkle said, but when it reached the hospital and the courthouse, it was not up to standard. The state condemned the reservoir and required the improvements to be made.

A new concrete top has to be poured, a new inspection lid installed, and a wall built up. The reservoir also will be fenced.

While the system is normally adequate to supply the hospital and courthouse, city water is also hooked up to the reservoir to bolster the supply if needed.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan McDaniel and boys and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Vaughn of Long Creek were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sam McDaniel. Also visiting at the McDaniel home were Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hutchins.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

READY-MIX concrete trucks, big and heavy as they are, had a rough time on the job of hauling concrete to the county reservoir, high on the hill above the courthouse, Monday.

Because of the frost on the ground, they couldn't pull the hill. They wouldn't dare try it anyway, because the angle of the terrain was such that their loads would pour out the back.

Of course, those engaged in the project found a solution. They hooked a county tractor to the rigs and pulled them up, but the trucks had to come up back-end first to keep the concrete in.

We're among those fiendish fanatics who would still like to know what would happen if the motor on one of those rigs broke down and the mixer stopped turning with the result that the concrete set up inside. Probably the ready-mix companies have an answer for that eventually.

WE THOUGHT it might be . . . It looked as if it could be . . . the bright sunshine seemed to say that it should be . . . And now we are quite sure that spring is just around the corner.

Reason we know is that Paul Hansen stepped through the office door this morning to announce that he is on his way back to Heppner for his 18th season.

The flyboy from Seaside is always a harbinger of spring. When it gets good enough to get out and spray, spring is surely on the way, one might say.

Incidentally, Hansen found a compatriot in Spike Pardee. They both hailed originally from Castle Rock, Wash., and Spike's dad and Hansen are long time friends. Paul even knows where Olequa is (six miles from Castle Rock). That's where the editor spent his earliest days. Spike likes to rib us by saying he attended Olequa College. Now that'd be quite an institution, for sure!

IT'S HARD to get the real news when you are away from home. In Eugene Saturday we had to buy three papers before we could find out how Heppner and Sherman County came out in the Friday night basketball game. It wasn't in the Oregonian nor the Oregon Statesman but we finally found it in the Oregon Journal. Most of the space was devoted to Stokely Carmichael and Lew Alcindor, both of whom were in Eugene for different reasons—Carmichael to promote his militant position on Black Power and Alcindor to lead the UCLA Bruins to victories over the University of Oregon and Oregon State U.

We saw Alcindor close up in a restaurant, but it seemed as if you had to peer a long distance to look up to his face, since he stands nearly 7' 2". It is said that he finds doors his biggest irritation because he has to stoop to go through most of them. We can well imagine that does bother him. If he forgets—Klunk!

BUT IT WAS great news to read that Heppner had downed Gene Lanthorn and company—an occasion for some impromptu cheering and exclamations. The Mustangs are making another great season, and there's going to be another mass migration to La Grande come March 3 and 4.

NOW that Ione's Redbirds are out of the tournament picture with too many losses to make the top four in the Umatilla-Morrow B league, we surely want to say a few words about the pluck that Coach Gene Dockett's boys have shown this year. They will surely be a fearsome five next year.

Most of his material was sadly inexperienced at the start of the season, and one might have figured that they would wind up in the league cellar. But Coach Dockett's topnotch sophomores, up from a flashy freshman team, fitted in well around a nucleus of upperclassman and they have turned in excellent performances this year.

That B league schedule is an exhausting one. They play 18 league games with the pressure strong in each one. It's mighty rigorous. Probably aren't too many leagues in the state where each team has to play that many counting contests.

Teams in the A-2 Greater Oregon League (western division) play only 12 league games, in comparison.

HAD TO do a double take today when we heard a couple of women talking. One said, "The Salvation Army man was here today but he was loaded."

Our consternation was relieved when we learned that what she was saying was that the Salvation Army had sent a truck here with a driver, and she had intended to give something to him to haul back but he already had the truck loaded.

Having gained this understanding, our faith was restored in this great humanitarian organization.

TO THE EDITOR...

February 21, 1967
To the Editor:

Dear Mr. Sherman:
In the lives of all of us, there occurs an incident of friendship and kindness that becomes a cherished memory. Such an incident happened to me last week. I was remembered on Valentine's Day by the members of the lone High school basketball team. It seems that they consider me a loyal basketball fan. I am deeply touched by their sincerity.

My own first coach in athletic events was an advocate of good clean games. I can still close my eyes and hear Mary DeSantis saying, "Sportsmanship is the thing! It is nice to win, but remember, the score is incidental to sportsmanship!" It is also incidental that she had winning teams.

With her teachings still ringing in my ears, I would like to say a few things to our Morrow County teams:

1. I am proud to have Morrow County represented elsewhere by the young gentlemen from Riverside, Heppner and Ione.

2. We are proud to have our newly formed girls teams from these same schools.

3. In my husband's work for Morrow County school district, he and I meet educators from all parts of the state. We have never heard your conduct on the floor or field criticized.

4. There are times when no one can blame you for getting angry during a game. However, your self-discipline in not showing that anger is to be commended.

5. With your attitude, win, lose or draw, I'm on your side!

My husband and I would like to thank the parents of Morrow County for sharing these fine young people with us. And, I would like to thank the lone basketball team for giving me a personal "cherished memory."

Yours truly,
Nadine Johnson (Mrs. L. M.)

Dear Wes and Helen:
While doing a little revising on my "History of Morrow County," I came across the history of Heppner's first volunteer fire department, and I thought Charles Ruggles, or whoever is head of the department, might like to have it. I am sure not many people of Heppner do not know this, so, here it is.

On October 13, 1898, the volunteer fire department of Heppner was reorganized. The officers placed in charge of the two hose companies when organized were: Chief, Frank Natter; assistant chief, James Thompson; captain of hose company No. 1, Frank Roberts; No. 2, E. M. Shutt; secretary, J. T. Stewart; treasurer, James Hart.

The members of No. 1 were—Ben Matthews, J. W. Thompson, Jack Horner, George Vincin, E. E. Hewitt, S. P. Bewins, T. G. Thomas, Mike Roberts, E. C. Wells, Wait A. Richardson, Lee Canwell, Jessie Shelly and P. Jones. Of No. 2, Frank Natter, Frank Borg, Dave McAtee, E. M. Shutt, Gilbert W. Phelps, E. L. Freeland, Jesse Stewart, James Hart, V. Gentry, Thomas Brennan, Mike Galloway and Will Ball.

One hose cart house was up on the flat and the others across from the Methodist church. It took several firemen to pull each one of these carts.

Sincerely yours,
O. M. Yeager
Castle Rock, Wash.

Tine Testing Program Slated
A tuberculosis case-finding program is planned for Morrow county schools in March, 1967, by the Morrow County Health Department, under the direction of Dr. L. D. Tibbles, health officer.

A signed consent slip from the parent or guardian is necessary before the tests can be given.

Grades scheduled for Tuberculin Tine testing are 1, 7 and 12. Parents are notified of results if a reaction is found, and a follow-up chest x-ray recommended. The tests are read from 48 to 72 hours after being given.

Materials for Tuberculin Tine testing are provided by the Morrow County Council of the Eastern Region, Oregon TB and Health Association, through Christmas Seal Sales.

Proposed schedule for testing is as follows: Tuesday, March 7, 9:00 a.m. at Boardman school—10:30 a.m. at Irrigon school. (March 10, reading of tests). Tuesday, March 28, 9:00 a.m. at Heppner Grade school—Heppner High school to follow: 10:30 a.m. at Ione Grade school. (March 31, reading of tests).

Hiemstra Daughter On College Roll
Mrs. Bob (Patricia) Frick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hiemstra of Heppner, made the fall honor roll at Central Washington State College, Ellensburg, Wash., it is announced by Charles McCann, dean of the faculty.

Mrs. Frick is a senior at Central Washington. Her husband teaches and coaches at a junior high in Anacortes, and she will move there following graduation. She also expects to teach.

The school's honor roll listed 581 students with 57 making a grade point average of 4.0.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

BASKETBALL
Heppner vs. Wahtonka, Heppner High Gym, Friday, Feb. 24
Last home game SUPPORT THE MUSTANGS.

ROCKHOUND CLUB
Regular meeting and program
Saturday, Feb. 25
Old City Library, City Hall.

ELKS' ANNUAL
Saturday, Feb. 25
70th Anniversary Celebration
Registration from 11:00 a.m., Heppner Ford Show Room
Ladies champagne tea and wig show, 1:2 p.m., St. Patrick's Parish hall
Dinner, 6:00 p.m., parish hall
Dance to Roy Miller's orchestra, lodge temple, from 9 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING
Monday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m., Ione School Cafeteria
Guest speaker, Robert E. O'Roark, talk on "Water Diversion Facts"
Everyone welcome.

ANYONE FOR BASKETBALL?
OSU BASKETBALL, 3:00 p.m., Sunday, March 12, OSU vs. OREGON, KATU Channel 2.
Meet our man from NORTH-WESTERN during breaks in the games.

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