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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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What's New... From Salem

By REP. IRVIN MANN, JR.

Shape of what might come out of this legislature in the nature of property tax relief, basic school support and a tax to finance that relief and that support is beginning to come clear.

The chairman of the Senate Tax Committee, who had previously scoffed at the House tax program has agreed that a vote by the people on a choice of whether or not they want substantial permanent property tax relief through the approach the House Tax Committee had evolved was in order. He further agreed that that vote should also carry with it a vote on a tax measure which would tap a new source of revenue to foot the bill so that schools would in no sense be curtailed—and further expressed the opinion that such a tax should probably be a sales tax with, in addition to property tax relief, some income tax relief features.

Then Saturday, the House Education Committee unveiled a new basic school support formula for the state which would raise the support of local schools to at least 50% of cost—a goal school men have sought for a long time. The new formula would be distributed on a flat grant basis rather than the present formula. Here again it became amply clear that the goal could never be reached without a new tax—that the cost of the program would be \$80 million and that not even half that amount was available from current sources.

Thus it appears that some time this year the people will be asked to make a momentous decision at the ballot box, and that decision, by one vote will decide the following things: 1) Do you want permanent substantial property tax relief assured by a constitutional limitation on how much property tax can be levied for school purposes? 2) Do you want schools supported to the tune of 50% by the state on a flat grant basis? 3) If you do want this, are you ready to enact a sales tax to finance these goals?

This is a harsh choice, but whatever decisions the people make, it will be a momentous one. If this legislature gives the people the opportunity to make that decision, it will have discharged its obligations as few legislatures have in the past.



NEW MEMBER of Union Pacific's scholarship family is Steve Wagenblast, Lexington. He received his certificate from C. W. Manke, UP agricultural agent, at state Future Farmers of America convention at Eugene. Almost 10,000 FFA and 4-H youths have received scholarships from the railroad. Recipients must attend land grant college, such as Oregon State University.

TO THE EDITOR...

Under Socialism

To the Editor:

As I read the talk of W. Ross Thatcher, premier of Saskatchewan, that he made recently but wonder what Saskatchewan did with their Socialist blue prints when they decided to discard them in 1964. Do you suppose they were turned over to L.B.J. to pattern his Great Society after?

The following is a speech by the premier, in his own words, where he cites socialism in Saskatchewan as a warning to the people of the United States:

Saskatchewan for 20 years, from 1944 to 1964, had a socialist government, about the only one in North America, except Castro's. In 1944 the socialists said they would solve unemployment problems by building highways, schools, hospitals and to finance generally welfare measures they set up 22 so-called Crown Corporations. I wish that time permitted me to tell you the fiasco that followed. By the time we had taken over the government 12 of the Crown Corporations had gone bankrupt or had been disposed of. Others were kept operating by repeated and substantial government grants. During the whole period the socialists waged war against private business. The making of a profit was condemned as an unforgivable sin. What was the result? Investors simply turned their backs on the socialists. Dozens of oil companies pulled up stakes and moved out. Gas exploration ground to a complete halt; prospecting in our vast north became almost non-existent. During the period Canada was experiencing the greatest economic boom in her history, Saskatchewan received only a handful of new factories. After 18 years of socialism there were fewer jobs in manufacturing than existed in 1945, this despite the investment of \$500 million in Crown Corporation.

The socialists promised a greatly expanded program of social welfare measures; there was to be free medical care, "Free hospitalization, drugs and so on." The money to finance these projects was to come from profits of the Crown Corporations. In the overall picture there were no profits, there were colossal losses. Thus the welfare program had to be financed from taxation.

During the period more than 600 completely new taxes were introduced, 630 other taxes were increased. Per capita taxes were soon substantially out of line with our sister provinces—one more reason why industry located elsewhere. Twenty years ago the socialists promised to make Saskatchewan a mecca for the working man. Instead, we saw the greatest mass exodus of people out of an area since Moses lead the Jews out of Egypt.

Since the war, 270,000 of our citizens left Saskatchewan to find employment elsewhere. Finally our people decided they had had the Canadian Guinea pig for socialism long enough. They threw them out.

It is the task of our new government to prove in the next few years that the private enterprise system can do more for our people than socialism.

If there are any Americans who think that socialism is the answer, I wish they would come to Saskatchewan and study what happened to our province.

W. Ross Thatcher, premier of Saskatchewan, speaking in San Francisco.

Paul Pettyjohn

ing for not having 18 year old adults vote for the U. S. elections but I do not feel it can or should be based on age alone. Maturity yes, age no.

If those between 18 and 21 are not adults or have not the maturity to vote in the elections, then why are they considered mature enough to defend the right of those elections by fighting in Viet Nam? Why are they charged adult prices for everything after high school graduation? Why are they required to be self supporting? Why are they required to pay taxes? They are considered mature except to vote.

The laws state that girls at the age of 18 are mature enough to get married, have families, manage household budgets, have charge accounts, bank accounts, etc., but they aren't old enough to vote.

Our country is based on the young people in today's society. We are now near a majority. Yet we are not represented by choice.

To me, this is more unjust than the slogan used during the birth of our nation, "Taxation without representation." To the boys in Viet Nam, it is facing death without representation.

I feel the voting age should be reduced to 18, and let the men fighting for our country vote in our country, and the women who are at home working for a better life and country help elect the officers for whom they feel best qualified.

Mr. Yturri's arguments are not valid. His judgment of age only as a criterion is unjust. Young people today are often more aware of modern problems than our elders.

We might follow the senator's argument to a potential conclusion; someone might one day suggest that all those over 50, for example are too senile to vote. How about that?

Sue C. Townsend

Governor's Position on Taxes

Recently Governor Tom McCall made a half-hour television presentation to the people of Oregon on the subject of taxes. Exponents of the sales tax had expected that this would be a strong appeal against the sales tax and in favor of the governor's income tax proposal as a method of alleviating the property tax load. But it was no such "rock-em, sock-em" presentation. On the other hand, it was in the nature of the "fireside chat", conducted with decorum and restraint.

His quiet talk, with the aid of John Mosser, director of Finance and Administration, was a pleasant relief at a time when the public is used to harsh words and controversy. While the explanation on taxes was basic and simple, it was fair and gave points for and against each type of tax in an understandable manner.

In reply to a letter from the Gazette-Times concerning the telecast, Governor McCall wrote Friday, stating, "The mail following my television program is overwhelmingly in favor of a small income tax increase—the people of Oregon feel that the sales tax would be an unfair method of financing government. On the other hand, they decisively indicate their desire for property tax relief."

While no clearcut picture has emerged from the legislature to date on what program will be presented to the people, it becomes more apparent that a considerable segment of the lawmakers is doggedly pursuing the sales tax. Rep. Irvin Mann reports in his column this week that it seems to be shaping up to a 3-way decision for voters: 1. Do you want to reduce property taxes? 2. Are you in favor of 50% state basic school support? 3. If so, are you in favor of a sales tax?

If the legislature puts the matter to Oregon voters in this manner, it will be regrettable. Such a proposal would ignore the income tax increase as an alternative.

It seems to us that the legislature is not reading the signs very well. Newspaper polls, opposition by organizations, comments by the public, editorials by newspapers and television seem to indicate that Oregon voters will not approve a sales tax, and it is difficult for us to see why proponents in the legislature so doggedly pursue this course.

If an election is put to the people on a "sales tax or nothing" basis, their rancor will be incurred, and it will be voted down resoundingly.

Many people will vote for no additional tax, but we believe the income tax proposal would have a better chance than the sales tax as a method of property tax relief. And for good reason. Income tax is based more nearly on the ability to pay; the machinery for collection is already set up—it would require no additional costly state collection system; it would not impose the hardship on business in exacting the tax and keeping records; it is not the continuing nuisance that the sales tax is.

There are some who maintain that we should be picking up more tourist dollars through a sales tax. The best way to pick up tourist dollars is to make the state attractive, and taxing them is not the answer. Not to be overlooked, too, is that border cities of Oregon on three sides are enjoying some prosperity by trade coming from the sales-taxed consumers of Washington, California and Idaho. Ask someone in Milton-Freewater what this means there!

Remember, too, that if a sales tax is enacted, utilities will get the greatest relief, and they are the ones who least need it. If it were possible to get them to convert these reductions into lower rates for their services, it wouldn't be so bad, but it is doubtful if they would stand still for this.

Washington now is pointing to a sales tax of 5%. Open the door in Oregon to a 2% or 3% sales tax, and it won't be many years until it will be climbing here, too. We'll find that we have just another tax to pay.

If the people of Oregon want to cut property taxes by shifting some of the burden to another tax, the program of Governor Tom McCall is the easiest, the wisest and most equitable. Under his plan, the majority of Oregonians would pay 15% more in income tax or about one-half of one percent of income. For this they would receive approximately a 20% property tax decrease. Utilities would bear a share though corporate tax increase in proportionate amount.

We're disappointed at the attitude of the Republicans in the House in focusing on a sales tax. One wonders what influences their thinking. Perhaps Oregonians should elect more low income men and women—with large families—to legislative seats. Such families will bear the brunt of a sales tax. Those with higher incomes, of course, shy away from an income tax increase, even though they are more able to pay.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

LOWELL (GRIB) GRIBBLE, president of the Willow Creek Country club, made the ultimate blorp Monday when he made a little talk at Chamber of Commerce to spur interest in golf here and support of the club. It was a classic and couldn't have been better if he had planned it, but it was just a slip of the tongue of the variety that occurs when a person tries to say, "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers."

Grib told of the reasons the Chamber members should support the club and then told of membership costs. As an afterthought, he declared, "and ministers and priests can pray free." He had meant to say "play" of course, but the Japanese accent crept in.

Fittingly enough, the Rev. Dirk Rinehart was sitting right across the table from Grib.

There are many clergymen who are good golfers. Maybe good prayers do become good players even though there are times on the golf course that try man's souls and one has to resist temptations of the horned red demon.

Visiting with Grib Tuesday, he told about playing with a minister once and asked him if he were ever tempted to use improper language when he made a bad shot.

"No," replied the clergyman, "but I have noticed that the grass gets a little greener where I spit after dubbing a shot."

WILLOW CREEK golfers expect an excellent season this year and think that in a couple of years the course is going to be one of the finest little layouts anywhere. The big improvement just made is the installation of an underground sprinkling system.

It could be that this system, in fact, caused Tuesday's good rain. The sprinklers were in operation and may have acted as a primer to cause the skies to pour forth.

ONE THING nice about small weekly newspapers is that they aren't required to conform so rigidly to standards of journalism, but most publishers make an effort to "go by the book" in order to put out a good product.

Adding to the problem is the fact that the little weekly has many "reporters." They range down to first year 4-H club members. We try to be a little severe with them, in order that they get some teaching in how it should be done.

But sometimes their work is just too colorful to resist. Consider Lisa Collins' report on the Cookies' meeting this week: "We made peanut butter, oatmeal raisin cookies and Brownies. We took some home to our families and left some for Mrs. Wolff." Then she adds, "Hostess was Diane Cox; she brought cookies to eat."

Sounds as if Diane was playing it safe, all right!

IF YOU see a lot of grade school youngsters dressed up in all manner of crazy costumes Fri-

day, bear in mind that Saturday is April 1, and you know what that means.

"That helps us justify Dress-up Day" Principal Al Martin said. Besides spring fever has started to bite (despite Tuesday's rain), and it is a good break in the long classroom routine at this time of year.

All classes at the schools will participate, and some of the teachers will, too, we understand. Now that ought to make some purty pitchers.

ISN'T IT discouraging now that we have mentioned spring, it has started to snow. That'll teach us.

JUDGE PAUL JONES brings up a pertinent point in connection with the John Day dam reservoir.

"Who came up with the name 'Umatilla' for the lake?" he asked.

The lake borders on Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow counties in Oregon, and on Klickitat and Benton in Washington. How come "Umatilla"?

The judge suggests the bordering counties should get together and try to get a more appropriate name for the reservoir which is expected to become one of the best recreation areas east of the Cascades with its sandy shores stretching for 35 miles as contrasted with the rocky cliffs of the reservoir backed up by McNary.

HERE'S A LITTLE consolation (?) with income tax time coming up: A couple of weeks ago some federal officials came from Washington, D. C., for an orientation conference with some state officials in Portland. They used, according to a TV newscaster, "one of the several airplanes at the President's disposal." The newscaster reported that the plane costs \$875 per hour to fly. Now the game is to figure how far across the country they could fly on the income tax that you are going to pay on April 15.

It's a little hard to take when you think you've worked all year to accumulate your little contribution to Uncle Sam, isn't it?

Girls to Attend FHA Conference

Home economics students from junior and senior high schools across Oregon will participate March 31 and April 1 at Oregon State University in the annual Future Homemakers of America Conference.

Oregon has more than 4,000 FHA members in 116 chapters. Almost all of the chapters are expected to send representatives to the state meetings.

Attending from the Heppner High FHA chapter will be Sheila Luciani, president, and either Chris Munkers or Louella Roark, vice presidents. Mrs. Gene (Leona) Winters, advisor, also will attend.

Local Service Man Calls on Rest Leave

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Ball and family received a call Tuesday, March 21, from their son, now Spc 4 Jay Ball telling them of his recent promotion and that he was having a trip to Hong Kong as part of a week's rest and recreation after service in Vietnam.

He called again from Hong Kong on Friday, March 24, before returning to Plei Ku for active duty in a new assignment with an Armored Personnel Carrier Division and according to his mother said he had really enjoyed his time in Hong Kong and wanted to be remembered to his friends in Heppner. Mrs. Ball said the family was surprised at the clear telephone connections.

Heppner Grad Holds Part in College Play

Sheridan Wyman, daughter of Mrs. Ilene Wyman, shared the lead in a recent play production at Marylhurst College. The play, "To Burn a Witch", was given March 10 and 11.

The setting of the play was in Salem, Mass., around the year 1683. The one-act play dealt with the treatment of two girls accused of witchery.

Sheridan, a freshman at Marylhurst, was active in drama at Heppner High school before her graduation here last spring.

Club Makes Cookies

The Cookies met March 21, 1967, at the home of Mrs. Wallace W. Wolff. We made peanut butter, oatmeal raisin cookies and Brownies. We took some home to our families and left some for Mrs. Wolff. Hostess was Diane Cox. She brought cookies to eat.

—Lisa Collins, reporter

Wayne Hams Head New Rifle Club

Wayne Hams was elected president of the newly-formed Morrow County Rifle and Pistol club at its meeting in the American Legion hall, Heppner, earlier this month. Dick Robison was elected vice-president and Len Ray Schwarz secretary-treasurer.

The club name was chosen after discussion during the business meeting, and dues were set at \$5 per year. A minimum age limit of 17 was set in accordance with NRA regulations, which the club will probably follow in establishing its range rules.

Site of the proposed range is still in the planning stage, and it should be decided on at the next meeting in the Legion hall Wednesday, April 5, at 7:30. Two movies will be shown at that time and all interested persons are invited to attend.

Two from Heppner On BMC Honor Roll

Two students from Heppner at Blue Mountain Community College received honors for their work during the winter term, according to Truman Baily, director of admissions.

Dale Van Blokland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Van Blokland, was one of 19 students who made the honor roll. This roll includes students making grade point averages of 3.50 or higher.

Walter Beckett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Beckett, made the Dean's List with a grade point average of 3.00.

Other students from the county on the honor roll are Elsie Collins (3.69), Donald Eppenhach (3.76), both of Irrigon, and Irene De Anne Wear (3.54), Boardman. Sheryl Witherspoon of Irrigon made the Dean's List with a 3.23.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Thompson and family went to Nyssa over spring vacation to be with his family. They also went to Idaho Falls before returning home.

Boardman Story

I was most interested in seeing the article and pictures about the relocated town of Boardman, Oregon in the Heppner Gazette-Times for Thursday, February 16, 1967.

I am the oldest daughter of Sam Boardman, and my sister, brothers and myself would like to obtain copies of this issue if possible.

I am enclosing a check for \$1 for four copies of the paper which can be sent to me.

In appreciation of your fine editorial and coverage of the story, I am

Sincerely yours,
Dorothy Mefford
(Mrs. Albert R.)
Salem, Oregon

TO THE EDITOR

On Age 18 Voting

Dear Mr. Sherman:

Please print this in your editorial column. This refers to the article that was printed in the Oregonian March 22, 1967.

Sen. Anthony Yturri stated that "18 year olds do not have the maturity to vote at the polls." What is Mr. Yturri's definition of maturity? Only one's age?

The maturing age is not always the same for everyone. It depends on the individual.

There might be some reason-

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

- HEPPNER HIGH BASEBALL Saturday, April 1, 1 p.m. Heppner vs. Umatilla, Heppner High Field
- Tuesday, April 4, 3 p.m. Heppner vs. Condon, Heppner High Field
- SPRING CARNIVAL Saturday, April 1, sponsored by Heppner PTA and Band Parents Dinner from 5:30 p.m.; booths, games, dunk tank, lots of door prizes, dance from 10 to 1 Heppner Fair Pavilion Lots of fun for everyone!
- SMORGASBORD DINNER Willows Grange Hall, Ione Sunday, April 2 Serving from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. Tickets, \$1.75 and \$1.00
- GOLDEN AGE CLUB Tuesday, April 4, Episcopal Parish Hall Dinner, 7:00 p.m., followed by entertainment
- OES SOCIAL CLUB Ruth Chapter, OES Social Club card party Saturday, April 1, 1:30 p.m. Heppner Masonic Hall
- SPRING RUMMAGE SALE Friday, Saturday, April 14, 15 Sponsored by Heppner Civic League Gilliam & Bisbee Bldg.
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