

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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'War on Poverty' Comes Here

With the announcement that a survey will be conducted in Umatilla and Morrow counties under a \$11,110 federal grant to determine needs of the elderly, it is evident that the "War on Poverty" has indeed reached here.

The original news story said that the Blue Mountain Economic Development Council is presently operating a community program in a neighborhood center in Heppner. This is erroneous. The center has not been established in Heppner as yet, although plans are well under way.

It is announced that the center and survey will define needs of the elderly, provide on-going referral services, and other necessary services which are not now available from existing sources.

It is a little difficult at this time to understand specifically what is expected to be achieved through the neighborhood center, but Lorin O'Gara of Pendleton, director of the Blue Mountain Economic Council, has indicated that he will "spell this out" in information to be released to the public here.

It is our understanding that space will be rented for the center and that it will be staffed with personnel working under the direction of O'Gara.

As one goes about his business in Heppner, he might think that there is no need for such a program here. But a person can go through a daily routine without ever seeing some of the needs of others, including the elderly, the underprivileged, and the handicapped.

One could hazard a guess that there is considerably less need here than in most other localities around the state. He might scoff and say that is a waste of money in Heppner, but we would prefer to reserve judgment on that. Maybe a survey will determine if there is real need.

We think a good many questions need to be answered. What about the cost? Will this neighborhood center cost more to administer than it benefits those it seeks to help? This has been one of the great deficiencies of many of the programs in the War on Poverty. Our inclination is to think this would be true here, too, but we will wait and see.

It is also difficult to understand why such programs as these are not coordinated through existing agencies without setting up an entirely new program.

The welfare department, for instance, might take on the job of surveying these needs. Some of those working on welfare in Oregon are incensed because allowances for needy persons have not risen while costs of living have zoomed up since 1953. During the same time, administration costs in welfare have gained sharply—estimated as much as 50 per cent. Considerable share of this increase is laid to the expense brought about by the federal programs, processing forms required by them, keeping abreast of new laws and directives, and so on.

Thus, funds that should go to those in need are being diverted to administration and to salaries of administrators.

We have little patience with the person who is able to work and has opportunity to work but chooses to live on government handouts, which amounts to imposing on his neighbors and fellow citizens. But we have compassion and sympathy for those in real need of help.

We would not say there is no need for help here, because we do not know.

We do suggest that this neighborhood center program needs to be defined in understandable fashion so the public can be assured of its merit. We'd like to see a program started that reaches directly to the needs instead of talking vaguely about "on-going referral services," "conducting community planning and coordination," and so on. This is getting to be another example of government double talk.

We'd like to see that dollar which comes from the taxpayer's pocket drop to the person who is hungry, ill-fed, in need of health service, or to contribute in some other way to make his life more worth living. To do this, it cannot be diverted to administrators drawing comfortable salaries and doing very little to earn them.

Frankly, we're skeptical about the program that is being designed for Morrow county. We're not sure it is necessary to create a battle in the War here. But if there is a need, and it finds it and helps it, maybe it is a worthwhile undertaking.

We'll see.

Canyons and Hollows

(From Sherman County Journal)

We have occasionally been disrespectful of those who name geographical places hereabouts, particularly those who do not know the difference between a canyon and a hollow.

A hollow in the geological connotation is, according to the Oxford dictionary, "a depression on the earth's surface; a valley, a basin," and that has been the name for such a place since 1553.

A canyon—more properly a canon—is a deep gorge or ravine with steep sides, at the bottom of which a river flows. In this country there are many hollows and insist they are more correctly called hollows than canyons. For example, the Deschutes river flows through a canyon. The definition fits. Buck Hollow is a hollow even if it does have steep sides. No river flows down it, hardly a creek most of the year.

Every time we drive over the bridge at the foot of Buck Hollow and note the sign calling it "Buck Hollow Canyon" we scringe in sympathy for the man who named it both hollow and canyon.

"Hollow" does not seem to be a word in common usage west of the mountains. They have so much rain that every depression becomes a canyon fully equipped with a river. They cannot conceive a hollow. Maybe each area should be allowed to name its own hollows.—Giles L. French.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman



MAYBE THE BUFFALO do not roam in this Eastern Oregon country of ours, but we can vouch for the fact that the deer, and possibly the antelope, do play here.

The above photo proves the point. Pete McMurry took the photo a few days ago of his wife, Mary, and family friend, Mrs. Velma John, of Portland with a tame forked horn up Willow Creek.

This deer is becoming well known and someone has named him "Duke." Pete declares that he will come by calling his name. Duke makes his headquarters around the Norman Florence place.

Those who have come to know Duke and appreciate his goodwill towards men are asking for public cooperation in protecting him. This may take some doing if he is still around in hunting season. But if some overzealous nimbrod gets "trigger happy," quite a few of Duke's friends will be mighty unhappy. One of his youthful admirers is Tammy Brannon who wrote a letter about him and will be published in the August issue of Jack and Jill magazine.

IF YOU WANT to give friends or relatives from distant points a thrill on visits here these days, take a little jaunt towards evening to Bull Prairie and point out the deer to them.

We took our cousin, Doug Barrett, of Sacramento, Calif., and his daughter, Phyllis, out there recently and spotted a good many. Most of them were nearly as tame as Duke.

Visitors from the big cities will be amazed at the light traffic on the fine highway through tranquil country, and they will enjoy the game of looking for deer.

SEVERAL VISITORS in the past have asked about getting Heppner souvenirs to take home with them. They have been pretty hard to find. But we notice now that Van's Variety has taken on a cute and clever line of Cedarcraft Souvenirs. There are many different items in the line. They also have some neat little straw hats with "Heppner, Oregon" inscribed on them. Here's a chance to advertise for the community.

Murray Rexall now has picture postcards of Heppner, and there has been a lot of call for these, too. The drug store, too, has some souvenir items.

WE'D LIKE to call attention to the new little feature starting in this week's paper, "Traffic Tuneup," sponsored by Turner, Van Marter and Bryant, in cooperation with the State Department of Motor Vehicles.

When the legislature was in session and talking about requiring re-examinations for driver's licenses every few years, qualms came about whether some of us "old men" could pass the tests. The rules change through the years and some of us get forgetful in our old age. It isn't that we can't handle a car with efficiency, but we get a bit rusty on the laws and regulations.

Well, this little column that the insurance company is sponsoring will test you on some of these things. You might be surprised to find that you don't know all the answers.

The feature will run through a number of issues with a different set of questions and answers each week.

CONGRATULATIONS to Wes Mariatt on his new location at the brand spanking new Richfield station! This is a fine addition to the community and enhances the appearance of the business district greatly. Wes is expecting to hold his Grand Opening event on August 10-12, and will have a lot of good offers appropriate for the occasion. Meanwhile, he is doing business in his new location across the street from the old station.

WE TOOK a run up to Willowa Lake Sunday in an effort to beat the heat and enjoy some scenery. The scenery is beautiful, of course, even though the snow is about off the "Little Alps" by now. But the heat was probably hotter than Heppner.

We visited a little bit with the fellow on duty at the campgrounds in the state park. He said they had increased trailer spaces to 121 but fill up most every day. If they don't find trailer space, though, they will find a spot to park your trailer.

TO THE EDITOR.

Young Detectives

To the Editors:

THE OLD FAIR BUILDING "Ah, its moments in time" Art Crawford's fine commentary reminds me of this episode: In the driveway that encircled the structure which impressed many a youthful mind as a veritable Bastille was a function of its times—a trash pile for refuse of office lessees in the building.

This intrigued junior detectives and came thus under surveillance on a certain mid-summer day in the early '20s. A small portion of grade school science and a large dose of imagination led two hobby sleuths to investigate any objects or exhibits to be found that would spur hot pursuit.

Sure enough, a near empty ether spirits can offered itself as corpus delicti and was sniffed by each investigator and instantly a clue and a theory offered itself. The good practitioner was "gassing" his patients but good, and when they got their bill for services, were too hazy to disclaim same.

"Ah, so!" ran the theme of the boy's dream world of detectivism. In ten minutes more and all deductions were kaput and on to the next adventure. Just two lads and their fleeting moments in the fabric of time and history of the "Old Fair Building."

Oh, sure—the two sleuths? One, the late Robert A. Jones, cousin to our County Judge Paul W. Jones. Robert Jones' father, the late Emmett Jones, owned the express and dray business of that era. The other investigator was, Yep, yours truly.

Realtor Clair H. Cox, Corvallis

Proud of Lifeguard

To the Editor:

We of the local American Red Cross chapter are proud of Stuart Dick and the excellent work he did in saving the life of Judy Devore.

Recently while visiting the Oregon Trail chapter in Portland, Oregon, I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Frank Nickel, Stuart's instructor in lifesaving classes. He praised Stuart as an excellent student and was most happy with his success in giving mouth to mouth resuscitation for the first time.

Our chapter sponsored Stuart's classes, as we have all lifeguards in the past. Perhaps Joe Public will realize now the importance of first aid and lifesaving.

Mr. Ken Methvin has worked tirelessly the past two years in providing first aid classes in this area. We hope when classes resume in the fall, we will see many more of you in attendance, including high school students.

American Red Cross
Morrow County Chapter
Bethel Heinrichs, Sec.

Paper a Surprise

Dear Editor:

It was with great pleasure last week that I started receiving the Heppner paper. It was also a surprise and I do not know, but suspect that my very dear mother was the source of my gift. I have been receiving the paper second hand but was real pleased to find it in my own mail.

We are all grateful to the many lifeguards that save lives each year and it's nice to know that one of the home town boys stayed with his job long enough to save this girl's life. We should all be very proud of him. My reason for writing at this particular time is to tell you that Dr. Tibbles would probably remember on thinking back (I marvel at his memory) that he delivered a daughter for me in May of 1939, and because work was hard to find, he had helped my husband obtain work building the present swimming pool at Heppner. We all have our landmarks to go by, and mine is a very nice 28-year-old daughter.

Sincerely,
Frances Griffin
6985 Highway 217
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

Salem Scene

by Everett E. Cutter

Mosser Cites Need For Long-Range Plans

Optimism and self-assurance buoy the comments of John Mosser when he discusses his new position as chairman of the State Sanitary Authority, that agency charged with the awesome task of preventing, controlling and reducing Oregon air and water pollution.

One reason for his confidence is the new set of administrative and legal tools given the authority by the 1967 legislature. Another is, simply, that there is great hope for maintaining Oregon's livability standards because our air and water quality problems have not reached the discouraging proportions faced by many other states.

Mosser's appointment early this month by Gov. Tom McCall—to succeed himself—generally is regarded as excellent. As a Portland lawyer, former state representative and most recently this state's Director of Finance and Administration, Mosser has earned a reputation as a quiet dynamo, a man who gets things done. He typically is referred to as "brilliant," "courageous," one who "can spot a hole in an argument a block away."

Right now, he sees Oregon's pollution problems as stemming from laxity and short-sightedness. Just as on the national level, we simply have ignored the problem until it is no longer possible to look the other way.

He also sees public and government reaction to such an awakening as rather typical:

"We see the technological possibility of having something and like an impulse shopper, we decide to buy it tomorrow," says Mosser. "I think we should compare solutions more to buying a house than buying a shirt; this involves decisions, sacrifice and budgeting, over a period of time. The federal interstate highway system shows what can be done with planning of this kind."

According to Mosser, the Oregon State Sanitary Authority needs both a firm policy to deal with existing problems and a more fixed, long-term policy to prevent undesirable situations. He notes he was charged by the governor to "hold, clean up and roll back pollution without decimating jobs."

Such an assignment presents far from a black-and-white picture, Mosser says. Realistically, in taking the long-term approach to pollution control, we are going to have to live with some continuation of current problems. The question, basically, revolves around just how much of a price Oregonians are willing to pay.

"We can't eliminate industry, and nobody wants to. We can't eliminate automobiles, and nobody wants to," Mosser says in areas such as Portland, motor vehicles create about 50 per cent of air pollution.

Speaking of automobile exhaust, he says he thinks correction approaches have been too narrow and will broaden. We could cut fuel consumption to levels more typical of foreign cars, he believes, but more likely we will see changes in vehicle energy sources or in the internal combustion engine.

Because of many diverse causes, air pollution will take longer to clean up than Oregon waters, the new Sanitary Authority chairman believes. In water, we should define exactly what we want to use it for—fish life? drinking? swimming?—then determine where we are and set definite target dates for attaining goals.

Again stressing the need for long-range policy, Mosser says he is wrestling with a critical philosophical question concerning Oregon's economic development. Can we, he asks, now get by with requiring only so much of a new industry, for example, and then in five years develop a new, tougher code and go back and impose it on that original industry?

"I think it's better to get tough right now," he answers.

"and to anticipate and develop long-range requirements ahead of their needed application."

The Sanitary Authority, hampered in recent years by tight funds and staff, has dealt primarily with brushfire situations. Under the reorganization and increased budget approved by the 1967 legislature, Mosser anticipates more attention can be devoted to bigger, long range issues.

The authority now has more staff people, and more staff freedom in recruiting. Mosser believes Oregon is in a good position to bid for technical personnel in an increasingly competitive market, particularly because Oregon's pollution problems are more encouraging to real success than overwhelming.

Money is not the only answer, he is quick to point out. Much action depends upon the availability of qualified people, availability of federal matching funds and other such factors. But the new Sanitary Authority budget, "though tight," is vastly improved and offers a real chance to progress.

Mosser notes that the authority also is soliciting voluntary professional help, among engineers, accountants, industry leaders, in the cleanup battle. The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry also has offered its help in conducting surveys, and Mosser feels many critical needs can be met without budget strain.

With its new chairman, structure, budget and a battery of new anti-pollution laws to back it up, the Sanitary Authority should satisfy many public demands for clearer air and water.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

HEPPNER SWIMMING POOL

Open Tuesdays thru Fridays, 1 to 4 p.m., and 7 to 9 p.m.
Open Saturdays and Sundays, 2 to 7 p.m. Closed Mondays
Parents swim free Friday nights when accompanying children

RODEO DANCE

Honoring Princess Rubianne Fullerton of the Wrangler club
Saturday, July 29, 9:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Heppner Fair Pavilion
Music by The Go'Fers of The Dalles
Everyone Welcome!

4-H HORSE SHOW

Sunday, August 13, 1:30 p.m. County Fairgrounds
Events include showmanship, horsemanship and horse judging
Fair Premiums awarded

MORROW COUNTY PICNIC

Annual Morrow County Picnic Sunday, August 6
Laurelhurst Park, Portland
Potluck dinner
Everyone welcome.

CHURCH PICNIC

Methodist Church Picnic Sunday, July 30, Courthouse Park
Family potluck at noon, bring your friends

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