

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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'Outdoor Museums'

An increasing amount of controversy is developing over the possibility of establishing more and more National Parks and wilderness areas. A 1.2 million acre North Cascades Wilderness Park has been approved by the U. S. Senate Interior Committee. Another has been talked for the Cascade Range in Oregon from Crater Lake to the Columbia River Gorge. There is a great deal of controversy over establishing of additional parks in the redwoods in California. And, of course, the sand dunes area of Oregon was in the limelight as a National Park site for a long time. We don't know its present status.

Wendell B. Barnes, executive vice-president of Western Wood Products Association, is quoted as saying, "Under the basic law which created it, the National Park Service is charged with establishment of outdoor museums, where the public may look but not touch."

"Never before has so much been done for so few," he said, pointing out that studies show that no more than two percent of all the people who seek outdoor recreation ever get more than half a mile off a road.

He adds this significant statement: "Provisions of the bill provide only the illusions of recreation."

There is considerable in what he says. Our population enjoys its National Parks, as it should, but whether many more vast areas should be tied up and their productivity halted, just to be set aside for looking at, is something to be considered very thoroughly and without such pressure as that from the Sierra Club!

The multiple use concept of the U. S. Forest Service has proved to be an excellent plan for forested areas under federal ownership. This permits selective logging so that the forests produce and contribute to the economy. But the cutting is so controlled that the areas are not despoiled. Game is protected, but may be hunted in season. Recreation is provided for all the public to enjoy.

But when National Parks or wilderness areas are set up, public use is limited. We once toured the Willamette National Forest with a U. S. Forest Service ranger. He pointed out how very few truly enjoy a wilderness area, and this is something to emphasize. Only those with a higher than average income who are in very good health and who have plenty of time can afford or are able to penetrate these areas.

It ties in with what Barnes says—that only about two percent of the people ever get more than a half mile off a road.

Most every genuine American citizen loves our natural resources, and the great majority of people would not have them ruined. All know that conservation must be followed to protect these resources for prosperity. But the resources must also be used, and in doing so, must be managed wisely.

We have seen great tracts of beautiful virgin timber in protected stands getting overripe and conky. Stately and noble to look at, these trees were rotting in the heart. What some of the idealists seem to believe is that this timber will stand forever and should be untouched. But it rots and decays. That is nature's way. If it isn't used, it is wasted.

Timber that is cut is replaced by vigorous reproduction under planned practices of today.

The movement towards establishment of many new national parks is striking fear to residents of many areas where economy is dependent on timber.

Barnes continues that in the proposed North Cascades park, only 167,000 acres of the 1.2 million total acres would be authorized for recreational developments.

"Regulations governing wilderness ban construction of roads, ski facilities, and campgrounds, and even prohibit the construction of toilet facilities."

More than six billion board feet of commercial timber, needed to provide homes for the growing population of the nation, will be locked up under provisions of the bill.

A recent television presentation on the redwoods controversy pictured a vast, bleak wasteland in a cutover area to show destruction caused by timbermen. But this is a distorted picture under the controlled cutting methods of today. Proper management can keep forest lands even more beautiful and pleasing to the public than those untended. Any who doubt this might go to the Black Rock area of the Willamette Valley Lumber Company and view the sustained yield project there.

Don Moffatt, editor of the Mill City Enterprise, in a recent column sounds alarm at the project of a Cascade National Park. He is in the heart of the proposed area in Santiam country.

"It is a cause that may spell success or failure for many people who depend for the most part on the timber raised in this area," he says.

Moffatt quotes Sen. Mark Hatfield as saying, "If you lock up too much sustained yield timber, it could be the death knell of small operators."

There is no doubt about it. We need to have some "outdoor museums" if for nothing more than to give us a feeling of grandeur and to preserve some scenic wonders, untouched. But some good sense needs to go with it. We have to have industry to live and to build for future generations. We do them no service by tying up huge tracts as hallowed territory with the timber left to decay.

It's just too high a price to pay for the benefit of the few who exult in the illusion that they, on one of their pack trips, are treading territory hitherto untouched by man.

Hudsons in Hawaii

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Hudson (Laura Lee Sumner) are now in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he is employed by the Bank of Hawaii and she is working for Liberty House, a large department store, according to Mrs. Hudson's sister, Mrs. Jim Lovgren of Heppner. Mr. and Mrs. Hudson attended the University of Oregon and worked in Eugene before going to Hawaii. They hope to enroll at a university in Hawaii to complete their work on college degrees later.

Injured in Seattle

Mrs. Vida Heliker, Ione, received word Friday evening that her daughter, Harriet Bolman, had been involved in a multi-car accident on the Seattle freeway when returning home from work that day. She was treated for knee lacerations and facial bruises at Providence hospital in Seattle, then later released. Her car, however, was completely demolished. A truck accident ahead of her caused a pileup of cars, in which many persons were seriously injured.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

AMONG THE THINGS we will miss in the future is that of having Lou Bisbee drop in to tell us he is back from spending the winter with his daughter, Katherine, at Waldport. It was always an occasion for a good visit with this congenial and friendly man whose life was so interwoven with the history of Heppner.

We could hardly realize that he was 86 at the time of his death Saturday, December 9. He seemed to possess the vigor and spirit of a man much younger. Lou was part and parcel of the famous Gilliam and Bisbee Hardware Co. and as one long time Heppnerite put it Tuesday, "He was the one who stepped up quickly to wait on you when you went in the store."

His daughter has recalled some sidelights of his life: He spanned the time of having a spanking fine trotting team, moving 4 to 6 miles per hour; to a Buick at 60 miles per hour; to a jet at 600 miles per hour, and all of which he enjoyed.

He saw wooden sidewalks and dirt streets become cement and asphalt.

His local schooling was suddenly terminated when the professor (Reid), knowing that he was usually in where the choice of revealing the name of the culprit who put asafetida on the pot-bellied stove (one of the Hamilton boys) or leaving.

He went up to the "China quarters" in Heppner and watched them smoke opium. The two confiers which he planted at the old Bisbee place (Tashes) grew until they now tower above the roof.

Gilliam and Bisbee, of which he was a part, pumped the first gasoline here, and there is yet a faded old sign on the old red barn above town advertising it. Now there is a service station on many corners of town.

He stayed with the firm as it weathered fire, flood and the depression to help serve this community.

He served on the council under three mayors to help make this town "a good place to live."

Horror of the aftermath of the Heppner flood was a vivid memory to him, but he spoke of it rarely.

He helped bury a goodly number of residents "up on the hill," as he put it, and gladly served. His friends were legion, and he enjoyed them.

He knew the original citizen Henry Heppner and most of the pioneers since.

With his passing, the trout at Bull Prairie may now rest a little easier.

ONE THING particularly enjoyable about the grade school Christmas program Monday night was that there wasn't a single discernible clarinet squawk emanating from the performance of any of the three bands. Usually when one goes to hear these beginners, he girds himself for the shrill sips that these instruments make.

But the youngsters played exceptionally well. It is easy to understand why Director Hedman says he is proud of the 7th and 8th grade band.

That lively chorus, singing under direction of Ola Mae Groshens, was something, too. We particularly admire the youngsters who have the fortitude to get up and sing solo parts in front of their classmates and a crowd of adults. For boys, especially, that takes an exceptional kind of fortitude, but they did it well.

IN THE GRADE school program Monday, the youngsters were so close to the audience that the crowd almost felt they were participating. It seemed both eerie and satisfying not to have children in the crowd, the evening performance being reserved for parents because of limited room.

There were no youngsters running around in the balcony for two reasons: 1. There isn't any balcony in the multipurpose room. 2. There weren't any kids in the audience.

IF ALL THE jokes made and cartoons drawn on bird watching were heaped together in one big pile, they'd still not be worth a chuckle. Probably there are few such worthwhile pursuits ever to be so totally twisted.

This is emphasized by the announcement that Kirk Horn's Heppner High field biology class has been authorized by the Audubon Society to participate in a national bird count during the Christmas holidays.

It is rare that the Society will accept high school students to participate in the work, and this speaks highly for the work being done in biology classes here.

Its importance may be a little difficult to grasp, but it did ever stop to think how vital bird life is to humanity? We well know its value in recreation, of course, for many persons hunt birds of various kinds. They are also important in air pollution control, in industrial use, and in control of insects. The world would be virtually overrun with insects without birds.

Horn is interested in having the community become involved in this project and invites anyone interested to come along and take part. A 15 mile diameter area north of Hardman will be used for the count. So dust off your field glasses and give Horn a call. A story elsewhere gives more details. If you're inclined to pooh-pooh bird watching, talk to Horn for a few minutes. You'll be impressed with what they are doing.

IF YOU WENT to the basketball game here Friday night, you saw Grant Union do something that only one other basketball team has been able to do—defeat Heppner on its own floor in the "new" high school.

Pilot Rock is the only other team that has been able to down Heppner here since the gym was opened in the winter of 1963. The Rockets, however, have done it three times—on February 22, 1964, by a score of 51-42; on February 6, 1965, by a score of 54-51, and a few weeks later the same year, 49-46. These were in the Rich Mikeler era for the Rockets.

Salem Scene

by Everett E. Cutter

Citizens Hold Reins On Property Taxes

Last year Oregonians paid an average of \$299 per person in state and local taxes.

This figure is well under comparable taxes paid by residents of Washington, California, Nevada and Hawaii, and is about equal to those of other Western states. Still, even without the adoption of any major new revenue sources, such as a sales tax, Oregon has seen its taxes grow dramatically in recent years.

Most of the growth in our cost of government, both in amounts and in obvious concern, has been in the property tax. With last month's property tax bills still fresh in the memory, it is timely to review where the money goes and how every citizen is guaranteed a voice in its collection and spending.

Our state's property tax is strictly a local tax. It is levied on real property holdings and, in the case of business holdings, on personal property. It is administered primarily by county assessors. It provides revenue for counties, cities, school districts, fire districts, police sewers, parks, libraries, streets, lights and countless other local services.

Local taxing districts are established, and their procedures are set, by state laws. These laws also guarantee local taxpayers ample opportunity to participate.

Here is how: Oregon law generally specifies that the governing body of a taxing district be elected by voters in the district, for one example. Citizens can help to control local government costs by electing economy-minded administrators and by knowing them at the "home town" level. A local taxpayer may exercise further control over the disposition of his property tax dollar by familiarizing himself with the Local Budget Law.

This law prescribes budgetary procedures for most local government units in the state.

It provides that local districts must establish a budget committee, consisting of the governing body and an equal number of district voters appointed by that body. The committee's function is to review the budget submitted by the budget officer or other responsible party, to hold hearings and to place a recommendation before the governing body. Hearings are open to all citizens, and many persons sitting on budget committees volunteered their services.

The Local Budget Law requires at least two meetings to consider a proposed budget, including the proposed tax levy. Public notice must be given, and the law states that any person may discuss proposed programs with the budget committee when the budget is presented.

In most cases, a summary of a budget committee's adopted budget must be published in local newspapers at least twice before consideration by the districts governing body. Again, any person legally "may appear for or against any item in the budget document"—a local citizen's fourth chance to have his say on local tax matters.

If the proposed tax levy exceeded the six per cent Constitutional limitation, as often happens, the budget must be approved by a majority of the voters. Such an election represents the fifth opportunity to voice an opinion concerning local taxes.

Unhappily, many Oregonians do not take advantage of their rights, if we are to take as evidence the small turnouts of eligible voters who cast ballots in local revenue and budget elections. It is unfortunate that "vigilance," instead of "revolt," cannot characterize property tax discussions this year—there are means other than initiative petitions to maintain controls on local taxing and spending.

TO THE EDITOR...

Garbage, Cows, TV

To the Editor: I was sitting here thinking about some of the things written in your paper.

One that came to mind was the city council getting after this gentleman for throwing garbage in Willow Creek. Now I don't go along with this. However, we have a city councilman who throws his grass and lawn clippings in Willow Creek and has done this ever since I have lived here. Of course, maybe his trash is a little more high class—more unsanitary than twelve cows.

Mr. Spaulding said my cow bothered more by his bedroom window. You know many times I have had nights like that, when a cat would walk across the floor it would sound like an elephant walking on tin cans. But I drink scotch. I don't know what wine will do.

Another thing is, I received information from a former director on our TV Cable. That it cost \$5000 to send out cards, billing us for the \$4 we owe each month. This seems a little out of line. Say we have 400 members on the TV Cable. This times the 12 months would be 4800 cards. This in turn would be a little over \$1 per card. I would say this is somewhat high. I work for Kinzua and I am going to try and promote a deal with them. Do you know that one log, 16 ft. long and 24 in. diameter, will scale 400 board feet. Fifty postcards per board ft. would be 20,000 post cards. At \$1 per card Kinzua is in the wrong business. But I don't think our lumber salesmen could sell his cards quite so high.

And how long will the good people of Heppner pay that kind of a price for these post cards.

Maybe we can't stop it at once but election time is coming up. And at election time the big councilman's garbage stinks just as bad as the little man's. So, Mr. Editor, I was just musing and a-thinking about the little whistling crane that came to Heppner. I wonder if he has a permit to stay. Better see Spaulding. Since Mr. Spaulding made me get rid of my cow and chickens I am just one jump ahead of a cornbread fit. Shore need some help. Can't handle this job all by myself.

Respectfully yours,
Johnnie Hill

On Sales Tax

December 11, 1967

To the Editor: During both the regular and special sessions of the Oregon Legislature, proposals to submit a sales tax measure to the people at special elections were defeated. They should have been defeated. Along with 16 other senators I helped defeat both proposals by my "No" vote. I make no apologies. I'm proud of my vote.

There have been claims, however, that somehow the regular Democrats in the Senate have deprived the people of a rightful opportunity to vote for or against the Sales Tax. This is pure hog wash! For three reasons:

1. Out of 30 members of the

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL
Heppner vs. Condon, at Condon, Friday, Dec. 15
Heppner vs. Enterprise, here, Sat., Dec. 16
Heppner vs. DeSales, at Walla Walla, Fri., Dec. 22

CHRISTMAS PARTY
Past Noble Grands Club
Clara Gertson home
Mon., Dec. 18, 8 p.m.

'CALL SANTA NIGHT'
Monday, Dec. 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Youngsters call 676-9163, to talk to Santa
Sponsored by Jaycees

COMEDY BASKETBALL
Fabulous Magicians vs. Faculty Men
Thurs., Dec. 21, 8 p.m.
Heppner High Gym
Benefit for H-Club

SOROPTIMIST FOOD SALE
Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Central Market
Varieties of baked foods for the Christmas holidays

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Pioneer Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

Is America's Heart in the Vietnam War?

Not as much as it should be. Perhaps that attitude is stimulated by the premise that we can have "guns and butter" at the same time. We are too complacent about the matter. The spirit of sacrifice is dead or dormant. We are more concerned about higher wages, lower taxes and personal security than we are about the tragic situation of our boys in the Vietnam jungles.

True, we are providing them with all the protection and equipment our technology can provide, but that does not give life back to the thousands who are still in the morass of combat. Until we are touched personally by the loss of a son or brother, we stand aside.

Tomorrow, two or three draftees may be called from our community. Do we turn out en masse to see them go? No. They just slip away unnoticed while we study ways to beat the stock market to get more pay. Tomorrow, someone from our town may return from the conflict broken in body and spirit. Do we step forward to welcome and encourage him? No. We are up to our necks in the "butter" side of our existence. We count them in and count them out by computer, while not allowing ourselves to be disturbed in our way of life.

We do not deserve the sacrifice our draftees are making. Our heart is not in the war.

Metsker maps of Morrow, Gilliam, Umatilla, Wheeler counties on sale at the Gazette-Times.



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