

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97036  
Phone 676-9228

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
The Heppner Gazette established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 15, 1912.

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Subscription Rates: \$4.50 Year. Single Copy 10 Cents. Published Every Thursday and Entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as Second Class Matter.

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. until noon Saturday.

## Conservation's Broader Concept

In the annual report of the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation district (on pages 2 and 3 of section two, this paper), one can notice continuing evidence of a broadening concept of conservation.

The conservation district is still concerned with saving soil, preventing erosion, and making the best use of water and moisture, but it is also expanding into wider fields. It is more and more concerned about using resources to encourage industry, develop irrigation, and this year, in the Heppner district is showing keen interest in the talk of the thermal nuclear plant that is being speculated as a possibility for the north end of the county.

Conservationists are particularly interested in this proposal, still very much in the embryo stage, because it stirs the imagination on what it might do for irrigation by using the vast amount of water emanating from the plant.

So this year, the stress is more than ever on developing power, irrigation and industry as the Heppner SWCD looks to the future in its planning.

During 1967, as Ray French points out in an article in the report, the district allied with soil and water conservation districts in adjoining counties to form the Resource Conservation and Development association. They are concerned with the drainage of Willow Creek, Umatilla River, Walla Walla River, and the part of Gilliam county which drains into the John Day River. The area embraced is 5,620 square miles or 5.6% of all the land in the State of Oregon!

Their joint planning covers broad vistas, as the article points out. Some of these broader concepts will be touched upon at the annual meeting Tuesday night in the Lexington Grange hall. Members of the Morrow County Port Commission will be present to tell, in a panel discussion, something of the prospects on the thermal nuclear plant. They will tell of what is planned for the future by the commission. Under the broadened concepts of conservation, the work of the Heppner SWCD and the port commission go hand in hand.

The proposals being studied, too, are of concern to everyone interested in the county's future. The Lexington Grange hall should be filled to capacity for the meeting Tuesday night.

Heppner Soil and Water Conservation district has completed a great year to add an outstanding chapter in its continuing record of achievement.

Recognition and honor came with the selection of Louis Carlson as Oregon Conservation Man of the Year after he was named county Conservation Man. This was fitting, not only because it was an honor well deserved by the recipient, but because of the excellent work done by the Heppner SWCD. It brought honor to a deserving district.

Fifteen new cooperators signed district agreements, covering 24,932 acres, and the district now has 342 cooperators, covering 994,518 acres. This is only one gain made. Attention is called to the report of activities listed in the report in section two of this paper.

This district is getting things done. The broadening concept of conservation that is being shown is an example for others, both in Morrow county and throughout the state. In the months and years to come the district's work will be an important part of a coordinated program that will pay off in Morrow county's future, not only for its economic prosperity but in helping make it a more attractive place to live.

## Waysides Needed

Orville Cutsforth and his Chamber of Commerce committee on parks and recreation came up with a good recommendation when they urged the establishing of highway waysides on the Willow Creek Highway and on Highway 207.

There are long stretches in the county without public rest rooms or places where a person can pull off the road on a hot day to rest or relax. There is no place towards the north end of the county where a bird hunter or even a deer hunter can park his rig and spend the night in his camper.

Having such waysides along the highway would make the coming to Morrow county seem more inviting and friendly to travelers.

An attempt will be made to enlist help of the State Highway Department in setting up waysides. It is to be hoped that this good idea "takes," and that it can be accomplished.

## Too Many Burglaries

The wave of burglaries occurring in Morrow county is unusually high for this area which has the reputation of being relatively free of crimes of any consequence.

But recently two grocery stores have been entered, and three schools have been prowled. A motel was robbed, and there have been other instances where entries have been made.

While some of the "jobs" may be the work of the same persons, the methods are dissimilar. Money was obviously a factor in some cases, such as at Del's Market where a considerable amount was taken, but apparently was not the motive in the entry at Bristow's Market, Ione, where only groceries were taken, and the money was left untouched.

Some seem like near professional jobs, such as the one at Riverside high where an acetylene torch was used to cut into the safe. This, by the way, had a familiar ring, for others around the state were reported as using the same method—first entering a shop to take a cutting torch, then using it to get into the safe.

## The Rhyming Philosopher

### LITTERBUGS

WHAT MANNER OF PEOPLE ARE THESE WHO PERSIST IN SCATTERING GARBAGE LIKE DEMONS POSSESSED? SUCH ACTIONS CAN NEVER BE LIGHTLY DISMISSED. SINCE ANIMALS EVEN WON'T FOUL UP THEIR NEST.

THERE'S BEER CANS DISCARDED ALONGSIDE THE ROAD, OLD BOTTLES ENDANGER EACH BAREFOOTED CHILD. WASTE PAPER, GUM WRAPPERS, CIGAR BUTTS EXPLODE WITH EACH GUST OF WIND, AND THE LAND IS DEFILED.

OUR STREAMS ARE POLLUTED, THE BEACHES DESTROYED. THE FISH ARE DESERTING OUR SHORES, SAD TO SAY. OUR MOUNTAINS OF TIMBER WILL SOON BE DEVOID, WHILE BIRDS AND WILD CREATURES HAVE ALL HAD THEIR DAY.

WITH MAN THE DESPOILER, WHAT HOPE HAVE WE LEFT FOR NATURE'S SURVIVAL? THE AIR THAT WE BREATHE IS POISONED BY FILTH, SO WELL SOON STAND BEREFT OF PLACES TO GO WHEN COMES TIME TO LEAVE.

BEFORE WE ABANDON THIS WORLD FOR THE MOON, GIVE HEED TO THIS WARNING: MAKE THEM CLEAN THE MESS OF GARBAGE AND OFFAL THESE VANDALS HAVE STREW—AND POSSIBLY ANSWER OUR OWN S. O. S.

HARRY W. FLETCHER

## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

IN PASSING the other day Lucy Peterson mentioned, as she hoped for warmer weather, that Tuesday was Chinese New Year and that things might change for the better. She said that this is supposed to be the year of the Monkey, which means a very good year.

Well, sir, on Tuesday came the word that another \$29,000 is in the President's budget for the Willow Creek dam to go with the \$51,000 already appropriated for the project. That's a good start for the Year of the Monkey, especially after Judge Jones called Cong. Al Ullman's office and was assured that the Willow Creek project is going to go through, probably just as soon as the Vietnam War is settled.

John sure knows how to hurt a guy, doesn't he? In any event, one of the papers was dated June 8, 1933, when Vawter and Spencer Crawford were publishers.

One feature of particular interest in another portion was the display of pictures of Miss Mae Doherty, Rhea Creek; Miss Margaret Bronson, Lena; Miss Edna Lindstrom, Ione; and Miss Ruth Dinges, Lexington. These young ladies were apparently princesses selected for the rodeo court. Much of the paper is mutilated, so we can't read the caption, but it looks as if it might be "Dorothy's Attendants." Consulting Dorothy Doherty was queen in 1933.

We also note in the paper that Pat Mollahan had just departed on a trip to Ireland and that "Labor Day will go down in black when the history of the CCC boys of Bull Prairie is written. It marks the departure of Lieut. Zaccor, the mess officer and the leading spirit in the organization of the baseball team."

These papers aren't old, as old papers go, but old enough to bring back memories. By the way, the G-T has on file virtually all issues of the paper since 1920. Those prior were destroyed in a fire, but we understand that the county has files of the G-T going back farther.

HAVING NOTICED the new paneling and improvements made at the Morrow County Abstract and Title Co. office, we stopped in the other day to ogle a bit and chat with the owner, Harry O'Donnell.

The birch paneling makes a very fine improvement in the office, together with other new wrinkles, but the furnishing that catches the eye there is that massive counter, ornately carved, that must have a venerable history.

Harry believes that it came out of the Farmers and Stock-growers bank from early Heppner days. In the improvement project, he (and probably Mrs. O'Donnell) worked some three weeks off and on to remove the old paint and to cover, and it is now revealed as a thing of beauty.

Some master craftsman has produced that counter. Pieces have been very carefully fitted to make its rolls and gargoyles. There are spots where diamond shaped pieces have been inserted, as if to take out a knot and replace it with a patch.

It's enough to make an antique hunter drool, but Harry isn't about to sell it, and he wouldn't because he'd have to tear the building apart to get it out. A crane would be needed to move it.

WHOEVER INSTALLED the vault at the First National Bank had a good notion of what less. At least during the present wave of entries more vigilance is called for.

Perhaps it doesn't do much good to see that doors are locked when a prowler gains entrance by breaking out windows, by jimmying doors or by cutting through them.

But an alerted public may give some help. If you should happen to see someone at a late hour around a school or a business building when he wouldn't seem to have any business there, tell an officer or call one.

In Heppner, we're fortunate in having city, county and state officers stationed here. With the sheriff and his deputy, the state officer, and the three city officers there are six available to call. If you can't reach one, you can get one of the others.

If you run across information that may help solve one of these crimes, report it. If one is cleared, several more may also be cleared.

This rash of burglaries is a blight on the good reputation of the county. Americans are getting a notorious reputation for their indifference—for not coming to the other's aid, for "hiding their heads in the sand." We prefer the "old-fashioned" kind of Americans, and we urge our fellows here to be the concerned and alert kind.

## TO THE EDITOR...

### Truth in Interest

To the Editor: The United States House of Representatives will probably be voting during the week of January 29 on the federal truth in interest bill. This bill, which is similar in many ways to a bill that I have sponsored in the Oregon legislature, provides that a money lender or merchant who sells goods on the installment plan must disclose to the customer the approximate annual interest rate that he is charging. When the bill passed the United States Senate last year, there was excluded from the bill revolving charge accounts and transactions in which the interest charged was less than \$10.

Congresswoman Sullivan, chairman of the subcommittee that considered the bill, will be seeking to strengthen the bill by removing the two exemptions placed in the bill by the Senate.

The board of directors of the Oregon Consumer League, which is composed of 31 affiliated organizations throughout the state, has endorsed the truth in interest bill. We believe that in a free enterprise economy the consumer is entitled to know the rate of interest that he is paying. Certainly when the merchant or lending institution borrows money itself, they know the rate of interest that they are paying and could easily give the same information to the customer.

If the consumer knew the rate of interest he was paying, he could make a more informed choice among the various alternative ways of paying for the goods that he buys. This bill would also give legitimate businessmen protection from unscrupulous competition.

I urge Oregonians to wire their Congressmen in support of a strong truth in interest bill without any weakening exemptions.

Senator Don S. Willner  
President,  
Oregon Consumer League

### Seminar Success

To the Editor: Last Thursday night it was my privilege to attend the seminar discussion based on "The Brave New World," a science-fiction novel by Aldous Huxley.

The panel of clergymen, teachers, a doctor, an attorney, and scientists did an admirable job under the leadership of a very able Mr. Kirk Horn, biology teacher at our high school.

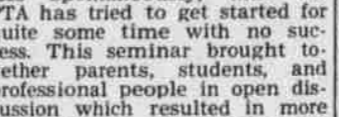
The attendance and participation of the high school students, as well as that of parents, was, in my opinion, terrific.

Mr. Horn accomplished something at this meeting, more or less spontaneously, that the PTA has tried to get started for quite some time with no success. This seminar brought together parents, students, and professional people in open discussion which resulted in more understanding and human relations benefits to this community.

My thanks to Mr. Horn and to the panel members for their efforts.

W. W. Weatherford

## Pioneer



## Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

There is an increasing demand for better schools, and rightly so. Coupled with that demand is the cry for better teachers' salaries. Most district boards declare that they must have more support from the state to meet the situation. They fail to point out where the money is to come from for that support.

The cities and states claim that they must have more help from the federal government to meet their requirements, but they do not advance a plan that will put the needed funds in government hands. Only by deficit spending can the needs be satisfied without the agony of greatly increased taxes. There may be a point of no return in this direction.

I don't know, but a simple example of our problem follows. A \$200 per year increase for those in a \$6,000 bracket has this impact in the general economy. Most people in that range are in the 25% income bracket, and will contribute \$50 to the tax income, leaving the other \$150 to be provided by some other group.

Perhaps we are approaching the time when we will tax the peasants to pay the plumbers, tax the plumbers to pay the teachers, and tax the teachers to pay the peasants. It works that way. We'll increase the deficit.

George Barkley of Tracy, Calif., arrived Thursday for an overnight visit with Mr. and Mrs. Wes Sherman and family. He was in Portland for a visit with relatives and made the trip to Heppner before returning south. Barkley and Sherman have been friends since boyhood.

## Pendleton Auxiliary Names Local Woman Incoming President

Mrs. R. G. McMurtry was installed president of the Ladies Auxiliary, Patriarch Militant of Canton Pendleton No. 3, in installation ceremonies conducted January 10 at the Pendleton Odd Fellows hall.

Mrs. Alta Kirk, Hermiston, and Mrs. Earl McMillan of Athena will serve as right and left aids respectively to the new president.

Other officers appointed were Mrs. C. Ann Pughel, vice president, Mrs. Leon Barnett, secretary, and Mrs. Willis Lecklider, treasurer. Officer of the day was Mrs. Gladys Scheir, and officer of the guard was Mrs. Theima Moore.

Chaplain will be Mrs. Esther Young; sentry, Mrs. Luella Fletcher; musician, Mrs. Sue Taylor; color bearer, Mrs. Florence McMillan; color sergeant, Mrs. Freida Majeske of Lexington, and color guard, Mrs. Ada Eskelson of Hermiston.

Elected as songster for the group was Mrs. Lillian Romano of Pendleton.

Mrs. Florence McMillan conducted the installation ceremonies, assisted by the Chevaliers, the men's organization of the lodge. Outgoing president, Mrs. Alonzo Henderson of Hood River was presented with a past president's jewel.

Preceding the installation, members and their husbands enjoyed a potluck dinner.

Next meeting of the group will be February 13, when a Valentine party will be held.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Van Bokland encountered some of Portland's snowfall Monday as they were leaving the Northwest Merchandise Show held in the Neighbors of Woodcraft hall in the city. They avoided the traffic snarls, however, although reported seeing a jack-knifed truck blocking the approach to one bridge. The Van Boklands went to the show Sunday in the interests of their Van's Variety and returned the following day.

## Couples Enjoy Trip To Scenic Hawaii

Enjoying a ten-day vacation trip to the Hawaiian Islands were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anderson and Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Mahoney, who flew from Portland on January 15, to Honolulu, on the island of Oahu.

While in Honolulu, they visited the Orville Smiths, former Heppner residents, who make their winter home in that city, and the Andersons visited friends from San Francisco. They toured the islands of Kauai and Hawaii on their trip, visiting the famous Parker cattle ranch, among the many points of interest.

The couples enjoyed several days of golfing in warm temperatures, with little rain. The group started their trip home from Hilo, and arrived Friday, January 26.

## Many Enjoy Evening Of Cards at Annual Altar Society Party

Turnout was good with several tables of cards in play at the annual card party sponsored by St. Patrick's Altar Society Monday night.

Eight tables of bridge were in progress at the party, which was held in the parish hall. Holding high score for pinocle was Mrs. Joan Thompson, second was won by Mrs. Kenneth Cutsforth, and low was held by Mrs. Nora Turner. Winning high at bridge was Mrs. Jack Healy, second high was won by Mrs. Adrian Cook, with Mrs. Earl Gilliam holding low score. The door prizes were won by Mrs. Martha Van Scholack and Mrs. Marjorie Worden.

Prizes awarded were cakes, pies, and baked goods, made by members of the Altar Society. Desserts of angel food cake with strawberries and whipped topping were served with coffee at the close of the evening.

Co-hostesses for the event were Mrs. Randy Lott and Mrs. Bill Kenny.

For any kind of printing, call The Gazette-Times.

## Salem Scene

by Everett E. Culler

### "Exempt" Property Often Serves Public Interest

In its year-end itemization of exempt real and personal property values in Oregon, the State Tax Commission headlines its report: "Exempt Property Gains \$4 Billion in Two Years."

Listed are such classes of property as burial grounds, libraries, veterans' homesteads, senior citizens' homesteads, zoned and non-zoned farmlands, and property owned by the federal, state and local governments.

The commission estimates that \$13.5 billion worth of property in Oregon is not subject to property taxation—up \$3.9 billion from its 1965 figure of \$9.6 billion. The gain is further broken down to show an estimated \$2.1 billion increase in publicly-owned property and \$1.8 billion in privately-owned property upon which property taxes are not collected.

Alarming? In these days of "property tax revolt" and state and local financial problems, it would seem so. Beneath the surface of the report, however, lie many explanations. Some are pointed out by the commission.

"Owners of some types of exempt properties," the report notes, "pay substantial in-lieu taxes." The severance tax paid on Eastern Oregon timber, which approximates the property tax which otherwise would be paid is one example. Another is the \$10 license fee paid instead of personal property taxes on automobiles. This category of exempt property has grown in value, and recent estimates have set the sum which could be raised by a two per cent tax on value of automobiles at \$20 million annually.

Another softening touch: the commission report states that the true cash value of taxable properties increased since 1965 by nearly \$2.2 billion. The new total estimate of taxable property value tops \$15 billion, and this is the primary source from which local government derives its revenue.

The report's new estimate values federally-owned property in Oregon at \$4,447,200,000. It does not mention, however, that the federal government owns more than half of Oregon's real property and is exempted from taxation by federal law. Federal property sometimes pays in-lieu taxes, however, and we can be appreciative of federal aid to countless state and local programs.

As with automobiles, Oregonians pay no tax on personal property in the home. The commission shows a two-year increase in value of \$125 million in this class of exempt property. Unspecified is the obvious fact that our steadily increasing personal income makes possible the accumulation of such exempt property.

The report also does not explain its estimates on intangible property, such as bank deposits, bonds, mortgages, common stock, etc., the value of which it says has grown 42 per cent in two years. Because the value of such property in the state is virtually impossible to pin down, it traditionally has been exempt and is subject to wide speculation.

A shocker in the commission's

## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

### Coming Events

HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL  
Madras at Madras  
Friday, February 2  
Friday, February 9, Sherman  
at Heppner  
Saturday, February 10, Wadsworth at Heppner  
All league games  
Support the Mustangs!

GOLDEN AGE CLUB  
Monthly meeting, Tuesday,  
February 6  
Episcopal Parish hall  
Potluck dinner, 7:00 p.m., entertainment following

OES SOCIAL CLUB  
Monthly Meeting Saturday,  
February 3, 1:45 p.m.  
Heppner Masonic Hall  
Members urged to attend

CAR WASH  
Saturday, Feb. 3, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Jack's Chevron Station  
By United Youth Fellowship  
\$1.00 outside, \$1.50 inside and outside

DIST. CONSERVATION MEETING  
Tuesday, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Lexington Grange Hall  
Special program

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