

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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The Rhyming Philosopher

SOMEBODY

SOMEBODY BUILT THIS GRANITE ROAD,
SOMEBODY BRIDGED THAT CANYON'S YAWN;
EVEN THE HOUSE WHERE I ABODE
SOMEONE BUILT BEFORE I WAS BORN.

THE SHIP, THE TRAIN, THE CAR, THE PLANE
WE RIDE WAS MADE FOR FUTURE USE,
AND LATER GENERATIONS GAIN
FROM WHAT WE IN OUR TURN PRODUCE.

SINCE TIME BEGAN THIS HAS BEEN SO:
EACH GENERATION PLANS UPON
THE HERITAGE FOR THOSE WE KNOW
WILL FOLLOW AFTER WE ARE GONE.

THIS IS THE PLAN, THESE ARE THE RULES:
WE BUILD TO CROWN WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED—
THE BRIDGES, ROADS, THE SHOP, THE SCHOOLS—
THE PAST AND FUTURE INTERWEAVED.

THUS DAILY WE SUBTRACT OR ADD
AND CLIMB STILL HIGHER OR DESCEND.
WHAT'S DONE TODAY, FOR GOOD OR BAD,
AFFECTS OUR CHILDREN IN THE END.

HARRY W. FLETCHER

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

WARREN MERRILL, industrial representative of the Division of Economic Development of Oregon's Department of Commerce, called from Portland the other day to find out what might be new in the way of industrial possibilities in Morrow county.

He said that he had been working at Baker in connection with the Hollywood film company that is making a motion picture and hopes to visit here sometime in March.

The making of the film at Baker, apparently having to do with the mining country, will cost an estimated \$7 million, we understand, and a great deal of that will be spent right at Baker.

Now this gave us an idea. Maybe we should promote Morrow county as great film-making country.

Think of all the wide open spaces and rolling range we have for making westerns, free from the marks of civilization, with few power lines to mar the frontier days setting.

We could fix them up with some rustic old homestead cabins, yielding to time; we could bring them back to the north end of the county for some desert shots; or they could revel in golden wheat if that is what the movie called for.

We could even provide them with some ideal extras and character actors. Harold Erwin, Al Fetsch and Corneal Green would be great in a western. It just could be that Hollywood is missing a bet. We could be real hospitable hosts in Morrow county, and a few million spent on location wouldn't be hard for us to take, either.

IN THE POPULAR lingo of the day, that Tom Kitchen Band is something else. It has been said that vaudeville is dead, but these gals, by the show they put on, contradicts this.

They performed at halftime of the McEwen-Ione game Friday night, and their getups and instruments would have Rube Goldberg scratching his head.

They say that it is music that comes out of their instruments, and I believe a person can recognize it as such—in the manner of the late Spike Jones.

But they also put on some supplementary acts, like the bride and groom coming out on the bicycle built for two.

There is a story on the Kitchen Band on page one of section 2. They are getting to be a pretty popular aggregation, and if you haven't seen them, don't miss the opportunity. If you've been feeling glum lately, they'll cheer you up. By the way, they are to be featured on the program of the high school PTA meeting next Wednesday night.

WORK OF Kinzua Corporation in promoting safety at its Kinzua and Heppner plants is told in a booklet put out by the State Compensation Department, "SCD Safety Central," in the January issue.

reservoir will begin to form. Downstream below John Day, the river flow will have been stilled.

"Forty-eight hours later the 76-mile long pool reservoir, stretching upstream to the tailwaters of McNary Dam, will have been formed."

Front page of the little magazine is devoted to the Kinzua community and a spread inside tells about the company. It tells how the firm publishes the "Kinzua Log" and features a "Safety Man of the Month."

"The concentrated total involvement safety program, plus installation of modern equipment, is paying off in greater efficiency and safety for everyone," the article states.

This is fine and well-deserved publicity for Kinzua Corporation, and the work that it is doing is excellent promotion for the area.

BLUE MOUNTAIN college students came over the other day to stimulate interest in the forthcoming concert of the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, directed by Jacques Singer, in Vert Auditorium, Pendleton, Saturday night, February 17.

It is good to see such an event sponsored by the college students, and it is good to have them come around in person and tell about it. This is a truly fine thing to bring to the area, and it is to be hoped that many from here can attend.

Tickets are on sale at the Bank of Eastern Oregon here, ranging from \$2 to \$5.

Even a person who has had little training in music and perhaps hasn't much true appreciation for the classical may get a real thrill out of listening to and watching an orchestra of this caliber.

A COUPLE of weeks ago we were talking with someone who was telling us how well Rietmann's Hardware in Ione was stocked.

"You can find most anything in the hardware line in that store," the person said.

We thought of this comment when we saw the two-page spread in the latest issue of Rurality about Omar (Dutch) Rietmann, owner of the hardware store.

It is a very interesting article and if you haven't yet read it, we suggest you do so. Dutch has been in business there since 1937 and has been one of Ione's pillars all these years, both in community affairs and in business.

That is what the Blue Mountains will be in the years to come. Information gathered from current press reports indicates that the program is gaining headway. With the approval of Penland Prairie and Kelly Prairie as lake sites and Granite Meadows as a target to follow, a move to strengthen the economy of the interior of Eastern Oregon is taking shape.

It is heartening to know that the business organizations and county courts are aware of the need for better use of the resources of the interior. One of them, of course, is water. A crash program is not needed, but continuous planning and construction will complete the job without a generation without excess economic pressure on anyone. The Creator has provided the water, one end, bottom and two sides of many lakes. Surely we can provide the other end.

When that "day in the early spring of 1968" comes, it should be declared a regional holiday and all go to see the wonder that will have such a great effect on the future of all who live in this area.

Varied Activities Occupy Last Meeting Of Sans Souci Lodge

First meeting of this month for Sans Souci Rebekah Lodge No. 33 was held Friday, February 2. Mrs. Tom Huston, noble grand, welcomed two members with veteran Rebekah membership who had not attended for some time, Mrs. Clara Gertson and Mrs. Mabel Chaffee. Both served as protom officers for the evening, and in past years, each had officiated as drill team captains for the lodge.

Several members who now reside in other towns sent interesting letters, which were read to the membership. Mrs. Ralph Scott had thoughtfully returned the veteran jewel belonging to her mother, the late Mrs. Nora Neill. Jewels of the order were discussed and clarified.

Several members were reported ill and will be remembered with cards. Mrs. Emma Cecil reported her husband as being in much better health.

The Rebekah ceremony of draping the charter was held in memory of Mrs. Millie Doolittle, who had attained a membership of 63 years in the order prior to her death last month.

Mrs. Elaine Rietmann of Ione, deputy president of District 20, made an official visitation to present to Mr. Larry Cook a seal of perfection in the unwritten work.

Each year the Oregon Assembly president selects a project for the betterment of the IOOF Home in Portland. All lodges in the state contribute to make this project possible. President Jessie Darrar of Madras has chosen for her year the erecting of a high fence around the Odd Fellow grounds. She appointed Mrs. Dean Connor to be in charge of this fund to be sent in during the month of February in the lodge.

Plans were tentatively formulated to serve dinner during the IOOF District Convention to be held in Heppner in the near future. Mrs. Cook will serve as chairman for the dinner.

Refreshments were provided for the social hour by Mrs. Bob Dobbs, although she could not be present for the meeting.

Unit to Study Care Of Wood Finishes

The Heppner Extension Unit will meet on Tuesday, February 13, at 12:00 noon for a potluck luncheon and project lesson at the home of Mrs. Wavel Wilkinson.

Discussion for the project lesson will be on "Care of Wood Finishes," presented by project leaders, Mrs. Ola Ruggles and Mrs. Wilkinson. It had been suggested by Mrs. Marjorie Wilcox, former county agent, that those who attend should bring a table board or small piece of furniture and some of the "care" products, such as wax, polishes, oils, dust rags and several clean, soft cloths to work with during the project lesson.

Eugene Pair Greeted At Family Gathering

Friends and relatives gathered to greet Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Cave who are visiting from Eugene, at a family dinner held Sunday afternoon, February 4, at the fair annex building.

Mr. and Mrs. Cave have been visiting their sons Terry and Russell Cave in Pendleton, and they also attended the dinner.

Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Don Bellenbrock and Larry, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Gribble, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Hughes and family, Mr. and Mrs. Elwyn Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Quackenbush, Mrs. Delbert Piper and children, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Ball and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Pettyjohn and family, Mrs. Lena Kelly, and Sue Britt.

Returns to Duty

Pvt. E-2 Michael Duane Kindie is taking a seven week course in automobile maintenance at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz., after returning to duty following a leave here from December 14 to January 2. He graduated from basic training at Ft. Lewis, Wash., prior to the leave.

Pvt. Kindie is a graduate of Heppner High school with the class of 1966 and attended Blue Mountain Community College for one year.



MISS DEBBIE YOUNG

Debbie Young Named Homemaker Winner In Local Competition

Because she finished first in a written knowledge and attitude examination for senior girls, given December 5, Debbie Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Young, Heppner, has been named 1968 Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow for Heppner High school.

According to announcement of Mrs. Eugene Winters, local home economics instructor, Debbie's achievement has made her eligible for state and national scholarship awards, and also has earned her a specially designed silver charm from General Mills, sponsor of the Betty Crocker Search for the American Homemaker of Tomorrow program.

A state Homemaker of Tomorrow and runner-up will be selected from the winners of the schools in the state. The state winner will receive a \$1,500 college scholarship, and her school will be awarded a complete set of the Encyclopedia Britannica. The runner-up will earn a \$500 educational grant.

The state winner, together with those from all other states and the District of Columbia, each accompanied by a school advisor, will join in an expense-paid educational tour of Colonial Williamsburg, Va., and Washington, D. C., in the spring. National scholarship will be \$5,000, with lesser grants to second, third and fourth ranking winners.

This is the 14th year of the Betty Crocker Search, initiated in 1954-55 by General Mills to emphasize the importance of homemaking as a career. The 603,798 girls from 15,079 schools registering for the 1968 Search established a new record for the program.

Last year's winner in Heppner High school was Barbara (Bloodsworth) Anderson.

Special acknowledgement will be given Miss Young on her achievement at a student body assembly at the high school next week, according to Mrs. Winters.

Have friends been visiting? Have you taken a trip? The Gazette-Times welcomes your news items. Telephone 676-9228 by Monday afternoon.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL
Sherman at Heppner, Friday, Feb. 9
Wahntonka at Heppner, Saturday, Feb. 10
Pilot Rock at Heppner, Friday, Feb. 16
Madras at Heppner, Saturday, Feb. 17
All league games
Support the Mustangs!

HIGH SCHOOL PTA
High School PTA Meeting, Wed., Feb. 14, 8 p.m.
High school multipurpose room
Business Meeting
Special Program by Ione PTA
Kitchen Band and Heppner School Band
Valentine box social

FOOD SALE
Baked Food Sale, Saturday, Feb. 10
By United Youth Fellowship of Methodist and Christian churches
Central Market, from 10:30 a.m.

VALENTINE DANCE
Saturday, Feb. 10, 9:30 to 1:00
Heppner Fair Pavilion
Music by The Henchmen,
Heppner combo
Admission, \$1.50

MATRONS, PATRONS NIGHT
Ruth Chapter No. 32, OES
Monday, Feb. 12, 8 p.m.
Heppner Masonic Hall
All members urged to attend

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Salem Scene

By Everett E. Outter

INVENTORY TAX HELD DAMAGING TO GROWTH

Ever try to find a reasonable selection of goods at your local stores around the first of the year? Or to locate a suitable exchange for a Christmas gift?

Those who think Oregon's inventory tax means merely an annual counting chore for merchants and poor merchandise selection for shoppers, might reflect on evidence that the tax severely limits our economic development, employment and personal income.

The opinion that Oregon's inventory tax is oppressive is shared by many, and reasons were detailed by Douglas Heider, director of the Oregon Retail Council, statewide organization of merchants. Heider testified before the permanent Legislative Tax Study Committee, a select group of legislative and citizen members seeking reasonable tax reforms.

The inventory tax, according to Oregon law, applies to "all livestock and all items of tangible personal property described as materials, supplies, containers, goods in process, finished goods and other personal property owned by or in possession of the taxpayer, that are or will become, part of the stock in trade of the taxpayer held for sale in the ordinary course of his business."

Such a personal property tax is levied only on business and, as Heider noted, is discriminatory between business operations and those which do not.

To correct this, he reviewed, numerous legislative proposals have sought to levy an across-the-board net business tax to eliminate the inventory tax, but none ever passed both houses.

Then, in 1965, the legislature passed the Inventory Tax Relief Act of 1965, which called for a five-year phasing out of half the inventory tax at 10 per cent each year through 1970.

Such a scaling down, however, required general fund appropriations which would offset our local revenue reductions (all Oregon property taxes go to schools and local government).

In 1966 the tax was reduced 9.4 per cent, and in 1967, a total of 19.2 per cent.

Relief Cut This Year

Then all good intentions hit a snag. Although the regular 1967 session appropriated enough for relief this year of approximately 25 per cent, the budget item had to be cut, along with many others, during the special session because of state revenues falling far behind expectations for 1967-68.

According to Heider, the state's revenue shortage is due largely to the national building slump which has led to our forest products industry. We need diversification of industry to escape our over-reliance on a timber economy, and the attraction we can best promote would be a sound tax structure.

"Elimination of Oregon's archaic inventory tax would materially aid in attracting the necessary industry to broaden our economic and employment base," he told the committee. He cited numerous examples of Oregon industries which have gone elsewhere for expansion and quoted testimonials upholding his contention that the Inventory Tax Relief Act of 1965

swayed many business decisions and materially contributed to year-round production and employment increases.

The phase-out program must be continued, Heider testified, because "the inventory tax is the only tax that directly causes unemployment. Many manufacturing firms are forced to reduce purchases and operations and work hours during November and December in order to mitigate the heavy tax load on the January assessment date."

This, he said, heightens the existing seasonality of Oregon's economy. It creates unemployment and all the incumbent problems when unemployment is at its highest.

One of Nation's Highest

He cited 12 states which have excluded or scaled down their inventory taxes, noting that Oregon has one of the highest effective tax rates on inventories in the nation. Inventory tax relief, then, would put Oregon in a better competitive position for more diversified business growth as well as stabilizing year-end employment.

The Oregon Retail Council enjoys good company. Others speaking out for inventory tax relief include the Republican and Democratic parties in Oregon, the Oregon AFL-CIO, former Gov. Mark Hatfield, Gov. Tom McCall and the late Dr. John F. Sly of Princeton in his extensive study of Oregon's tax structure.

Gov. McCall, in fact, underlined Heider's testimony in an address the following morning, delivered before the Pacific Northwest Hardware and Implementation Association for the ailing governor by Paul Kestrom, director of the Division of Economic Development, State Department of Commerce.

"I have not lost sight of the long-sought-after goal of eliminating Oregon's inventory tax," he said. "We are solidly committed to the originally intended phase-out of the inventory tax."

He said he (Gov. McCall) will recommend, pending on the state's economy, either an appropriation sufficient to bring relief to 50 percent in 1970-71, or an adjustment similar to his special session recommendation to provide the intended relief without budget appropriations.

"The deleterious effect of this type of taxation on economic growth is beyond question," he said. "There is considerable evidence that inventory tax relief produces—rather than loses—revenue. That is, elimination of the tax stimulates economic activity which in turn expands our industrial base."

The Oregon Retail Council would prefer to gain inventory tax relief without the biennial appropriations, or possibly with only partial appropriations, particularly in view of lumber economy problems being reflected in the state's budget. The cuts, Heider testified, can be absorbed in the total ad valorem tax base, and resulting economic expansion could more than make up the difference.

Eventually, many would like to see a total elimination of the levy on inventories. Such a program, says the ORC, "would create more taxable property than would be removed from the tax rolls." And it would help shoppers find more on their merchants' shelves after Christmas.