

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES
Heppner, Oregon 97836
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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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1 1/2% Limitation Coming Up

It is now assured that the measure to restrict property taxes to 1 1/2% of true cash value will be on the ballot in Oregon in November's general election. Initiative petitions have received far beyond the required number of signatures.

While election is still nearly four months away, the voting public should start considering the matter and become educated on it.

Giles French writes in the Sherman County Journal that he believes that the bill will have a better chance of passage this year than it did in 1966 because voters have become used to the idea, property taxes are still high and "the chances for relief from the legislature seem nil."

He also points out that its passage will give a boost to the sales tax, but is of the opinion that this will not be enough to get a sales tax passed.

Those who are against a sales tax—and this includes many—might well turn their efforts against the 1 1/2% tax limitation because its passage would bring about conditions that would seem to make a sales tax more essential.

This poses an interesting situation in Morrow county for the reason that property taxes here—on the county average—have been slightly below the 1 1/2% limitation. In Heppner and in some other code areas, they are slightly above, but not very much.

Bill Johnson, state appraiser in the assessor's office, says that he does not look for taxes across the county to be much above the 1 1/2% figure for the coming year, 1968-69, even though the county valuation is down. The true cash value currently is down 3.6%, but the amount of the decrease might be cut some when utilities assessments are received. The Pacific Gas Transmission compressor station at Ione, for instance, is to go on the rolls this year.

Now, suppose the limitation measure passes and Morrow county is not far in excess of the 1 1/2% limit, but other parts of the state are well above. Then will come the hue and cry for another source of taxation on the state level. This, it may be expected, will boil down to a sales tax. Then, as a result of this pressure, suppose the sales tax passes.

Morrow county people then would still be paying about the same amount of property tax but would have the additional burden of a sales tax. At least, there is this possibility.

It might develop that the sales tax would be earmarked for education and thereby, applying to the Morrow county school district, cut our school budget so that taxing agencies' needs would be well below the 1 1/2% limitation. However, the taxing agencies would be empowered, as we understand it, to levy to the 1 1/2% limit (without a vote) and this would give them a sort of blank check to hike their budgets.

Rep Irvin Mann has a legal opinion to show, too, that if a taxing agency succeeds in getting itself voted out from under the limit, which the measure provides, the other taxing agencies are free to go up to the 1 1/2% limit, thereby giving them a "blank check" again.

For instance, if the school district has an emergency situation that would not permit it to operate within the 1 1/2% limitation, together with the county, city and other agencies sharing the 1 1/2%, it could put the matter to vote at a special election. If a favorable vote were received, the entire school budget would be removed from the 1 1/2% restriction. This, then, would give the county, city, and whatever other taxing agencies there were in a particular area a chance to expand their budgets to the limit.

Result of this again would be that the taxpayers would be saddled with more taxes rather than less taxes.

There are many other facets of this proposal that appear very, very dubious and still must be resolved. One of the foremost of these is the matter of deciding how the various taxing agencies are to determine their respective shares under the limitation. Which will have precedence over the other? Who will have the unenviable responsibility of determining the shares?

In these questions lie some of the chaos that is expected to accrue if this measure is passed. If there are logical and reasonable answers to them, the measure's proponents should advance them so that they may be cleared.

There appears to be a better than even chance that this measure will pass. If it does, it seems apparent that there will be a whole new gamut of problems besetting the state.

Unless there are better answers to some of the ramifications posed by this measure than now seem apparent, that word "chaos" looms like a neon sign on the forthcoming tax picture in this state.

Carey Hastings Shows Improvement

Carey Hastings, who has been in serious condition in the Pendleton Community hospital following a coronary attack which he suffered following a gall bladder operation, shows fine improvement this week, his wife said Tuesday.

He has been taken out of intensive care and was able to be on his feet Tuesday for a short walk down the hall with assistance. He suffered the attack more than two weeks ago.

The Hastings' daughter, Mrs. Howard (Clarice) Henry of San Antonio, Texas, is still here and takes turns with her mother in going to Pendleton to be with Mr. Hastings.

Another daughter, Mrs. Roger (Evelyn) Connor, of Forest Grove had been here earlier during her father's illness and returned with her husband and family for a visit over the week-end.

McCabe Home Again

Earl McCabe of Ione is home again and showing good improvement after hospitalization following a heart attack. He was in Pioneer Memorial hospital for treatment for about six weeks. McCabe expressed his thanks to friends and neighbors who helped with the farm work during his absence as well as to those who helped speed his recovery with their care and expressions of encouragement.

Meeting Slated On Logging Codes

A series of 12 meetings have been scheduled throughout the state for the purpose of explaining proposed changes in the logging codes of Workmen's Compensation prior to a public hearing to consider the revised codes for adoption, the Workmen's Compensation Board advises.

The meeting in this area for loggers, log haulers, and others of the lumber industry interested will be Tuesday, July 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sacajawea Hotel, La Grande. Interested persons will be given time to ask questions or to express their views of the changes.

Mrs. Al Bunch's Painting Exhibited

"Spring Storm," a painting by Mrs. Al Bunch of Heppner, is currently on exhibit at the Atomic Cup Art Festival at Kennewick, Wash.

Mrs. Bunch's work was the only one of an Oregon artist accepted for the showing, which also includes those from artists of Washington, British Columbia, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and California.

Most of the paintings on exhibit are modern, but Mrs. Bunch's work, which recently was displayed at Murray's Rexall Drug, is traditional.

Mrs. Bunch attended a reception at the show during the evening of July 13. The exhibit runs through July 30.

TO THE EDITOR

Morrow's Irish

To the Editor: The staff of the Oregon Historical Society, Portland 97205, would like to inform the residents of Morrow, Gilliam and Umatilla counties that next month there will be a separate reprint of Judge John F. Kilkenny's article "Shamrocks and Shepherds: The Irish of Morrow County" (which appeared in our June issue, Oregon Historical Quarterly).

This reprint, which is a story of pioneer days in your area was described in your editorial of July 11, and your letter from our esteemed mutual friend, Mrs. Josephine Richardson Mahoney-Baker, former Heppner journalist and herself a colorful Morrow pioneer descendant.

The reprint is available for \$2.00 from the Oregon Historical Society, 1230 S. W. Park Avenue, Portland 97205.

Sincerely, Arthur C. Spencer, Public Services Advisor, Oregon Historical Society, 1230 S. W. Park Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97205

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Angell and twin sons, Harold and Gerald, of Portland spent the week-end visiting their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Angell, and son Jimmy, while staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hutchins. The Angells are former Heppner residents who moved to Portland several years ago.

Spaniel Gains Points At Vancouver Show

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Clow (traveled to Vancouver, Wn., Sunday, July 14, where they entered their four-year-old registered Brittany Spaniel in competition against 28 other Northwest entries in a dog show, held at the fairgrounds there.

The dog won open class honors and best of winners, to gather five points, completing his show championship. Three more field points are needed to become a dual champion, which consists of ten field points and 15 show points.

The couple stayed at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Swan in Dayton over the week-end.

Salem Scene

Property Tax Limit: What It Could Do

It's now official: the initiative proposal to limit local property taxes to 1 1/2 per cent of market value will appear at Ballot Measure No. 7 in Oregon's November election.

Proponents of the constitutional amendment filed more than enough certified petition signatures with the secretary of state before the July 4 deadline. Their measure differs in some respects from the ill-fated limitation proposal of two years ago, but its passage still could mean revenue losses of up to 50 per cent for some local government districts.

The decision rests now with Oregon voters. Many, considering what has come to be known as the "taxpayers' revolt" and the inability of last year's legislature to come to grips with tax reform problems, believe the limitation measure will be passed.

What is the measure? And what will happen if it is approved?

It would place a limitation of 1 1/2 per cent of market value on the total of local levies. It would exempt levies for payments on existing bonded indebtedness.

Would Repeal 6% Limit

It would repeal the present Constitutional restriction that limits local government tax levies to an annual increase of 6 per cent. Tax experts point out that the 6 per cent figure is a restriction on the total amount of money in dollars that a district can levy. In contrast, the 1 1/2 per cent limitation would be tied to the total market value of all property in the district.

Because market value is increasing at a rate faster than 6 per cent annually, they reason that property taxes would climb faster under the proposed system—automatically. Using the 1957-1967 period, they can show that property taxes have grown 91 per cent; under the 1 1/2 per cent limit they would have increased 141 per cent without any vote to the people.

Another provision of the amendment would give the legislature, instead of the State Tax Commission, the task of all-

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

BEFORE WE GET into the meat of this column, we will point out to University of Oregon fans that we promise them "equal time" if they demand it, for circumstances are such that this must be devoted largely to Oregon State U once more.

We really don't plan to feed our readers a steady diet of Beaver meat, but it just so happens that Jim Barratt, who is about No. 1 fan of Heppner and No. 1 supporter of OSU as athletic director there, came home for a visit, and he supplies more good copy in an hour's visit than the editor of a country weekly can pass up.

Last week's column was devoted to fighting traffic jams in getting to OSU football games with the freeway tieup prior to the USC game last year still a terrible memory in the minds of many.

Jim figures that it is all straightened out for the coming season despite the fact that unprecedented crowds are expected to fill Parker stadium, so we will let it go at that.

BUT THE MAN who makes "enthusiastic" seem like an understatement has some interesting things to say about other phases of OSU and particularly "The Great Pumpkin," Football Coach Dee Andros.

Jim travels a lot with the coach, and Andros now declares that Heppner couldn't be a town of only 1,600 but must be at least 16,000 because everywhere the two go, they run into someone from Heppner.

For instance, they were in Honolulu recently, reposing under a banyan tree.

An army officer and his wife stepped up and asked, "Pardon me, aren't you Jim Barratt?"

The man was Col. Ed Burchell, an old Heppnerite.

Sure enough, Mrs. Burchell at one time "baby sat" young Jim.

A great visit ensued. Andros quietly took this in. Then later Dick Wightman spotted Barratt. Another one from Heppner. So it goes on their travels.

Andros knows that Heppner is more than 16,000.

THE COLORFUL grid coach is becoming famous for the fact that he leads his powerful football team on to the field before a game, running like mad in his orange jacket while the boys lope behind him.

Barratt chides him now and then with the comment, "Some day you're going to trip and fall down, then watch out."

But the coach, of Greek origin, instills a great spirit in his boys and they like him thoroughly.

Andros jokes about his nationality.

"When two Greeks get together, they either start a fight or a restaurant," he declares.

Well, sir, the Great Pumpkin started something else. Ask Purdue, UCLA, or USC!

THE COLORS, orange and black, found a ready taker in the OSU coach. He recently bought a new car and had it custom painted. The colors you might guess.

If you see a new Oldsmobile painted orange and with a black top, that will be Coach Dee Andros.

But denied if Barratt's loyalty to the school isn't about as fanatical, shall we say?

Jim and Dorothea are building a new home in Corvallis. No, it isn't going to be orange and black, but it is going to have Beavers on the doors.

Dorothea wasn't quite sure about that.

"What if we move?" she asked her dynamic hubby.

That was easy for Jim. "We'll take the doors with us," he said.

OREGON STATE will be picked among the top five college football teams in the nation by Sports Illustrated magazine when it comes out with its pre-season dope soon, Barratt says.

And, of all things, Playboy

Vacation Trip Takes Miss Riley North To Canadian Points

Miss Alice Riley reports a wonderful trip as she returned last week from a seven-week tour, which took her about 6,000 miles.

Miss Riley, a Heppner High school Spanish and English instructor, left Heppner June 1 for northern Idaho, where she spent several days visiting friends.

Traveling on to Banff and Jasper National Parks in Canada, she spent two nights at Lake Louise, which she says was one of the high spots of the trip. An enjoyable treat was a Sno-Bile ride on the ice fields between Jasper and Banff, from where she traveled on to Glacier National Park in Montana and Yellowstone National Park for sightseeing. She spent a week camping at Jackson Hole, Wyo., in the Tetons.

From Wyoming, she drove on to West Liberty, Iowa, where she spent two weeks visiting at the home of her brother and sister-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. E. T. Riley.

Beginning her trip home she traveled to Boise, Idaho, and north through Lewiston, where she enjoyed the beautiful scenic drive through Hell's Canyon. She joined a group of 17 tourists and two guides for a thrilling trip by rubber raft down the Snake River, where, upon landing, the group was picked up by a bus.

The traveler reports that she saw moose in Canada, a mother bear and two cubs climbing trees at Yellowstone, a golden eagle in Hell's Canyon and a bald eagle hovering over its nest on the river, to name just a very few of the interesting sights seen on the trip.

Methodist Church Picnic Set Sunday

Picnic for members and friends of the Heppner Methodist church will be Sunday at the courthouse park following regular summer services in the church.

Morning service in the church will be at 10 a.m. and after the service the picnickers will assemble at the courthouse lawn with the potluck picnic due at noon.

Those attending are asked to bring their own table service, and a hot dish, salad or dessert. The church will furnish the coffee and punch.

The Rev. Melvin Dixon, pastor, and Mrs. Dixon have been on vacation for the past two weeks, going to Montana and Canada with their travel trailer, but are expected home today (Thursday).

Mrs. Turner Better Following Surgery

Mrs. Edna Turner of Heppner is recovering at Allison General Convalescent hospital, Portland, after surgery earlier this month performed at Good Samaritan hospital in which a leg was removed following complications from diabetes.

Mrs. Turner was transferred to Allison General hospital Tuesday, July 23, according to information from Frank Turner, her brother-in-law, who was in Portland to visit her on Monday.

Mrs. Turner will remain in the hospital for an additional three to four weeks, where she will receive therapy treatment.

Friends and relatives who have gone to visit her state that she is making fine improvement.

She would enjoy hearing from friends during her convalescence. Those who wish to correspond with her may do so by writing to Allison General Convalescent hospital, 2430 N. W. Marshall, Portland.

Ted Toll Completes Service in Army

Ted Toll returned to Heppner Saturday, July 13, after completing his service in the army. For the past six months he has been stationed at Fort Carson, Colo., and was discharged following his duty there.

He visited for a short time with his brother-in-law and sister Mr. and Mrs. Don Griffith, and family of Spray and with his step-father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Richards, also of Spray.

Toll, who is a brother of Leonard Toll of Heppner, has begun work at Cal's Richfield service station here.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAM High School Gymnasium Mondays and Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Planned recreation

POMONA GRANGE Greenfield Grange Hall, Boardman Saturday, July 27, dinner at 6 p.m. Guest speaker, Mrs. Margaret Rice, State Lecturer

TUNE-UP DAY Sunday, July 28, 1 p.m. Morrow County Fairgrounds Sponsored by Columbia Basin Quarter Horse Assoc. Judging in seven classes

METHODIST PICNIC Sunday, July 28, 12 o'clock County Courthouse Park Potluck dinner, coffee and punch furnished

FAIR & RODEO DANCE Dance honoring Princess Kathy Hinton of Boardman Tillicum club Saturday, July 27, 9:30-1:00 Heppner Fair Pavilion Music by The Henchmen, Heppner combo

Dance honoring Princess Sheila Lucian Saturday, Aug. 3, music by The Miss Fortunes, The Dalles

SPONSORED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY C. A. RUGGLES Insurance Agency P. O. Box 247 TEL 676-9625 Heppner

The Rhyming Philosopher

COMPANIONSHIP

THE TEST OF LOVE IS NOT FIRST SIGHT, MUCH LESS DISCOVERED OVERNIGHT, BUT LIKE A TREE ITS STRENGTH IS FOUND WITH ROOTS IN UNDERSTANDING GROUND.

A MAN AND WOMAN'S NATURE BLENDS WHEN LOVE HAS TURNED THEM INTO FRIENDS WHOSE MARRIAGE WEATHERS PASSING YEARS, AND COUNTS ITS DAYS AS SOUVENIRS.

NO LIVING MAN CAN BE A SAINT ABOVE REPROACH, BEYOND COMPLAINT; NOR ANY WOMAN AS A WIFE CAN BE AN ANGEL ALL HER LIFE.

SO AS TRUE FRIENDS THEY FACE EACH DAY TOGETHER, NOT TO HAVE THEIR WAY, BUT UNDERSTANDINGLY CONSTRUE THE OTHER PERSON'S FEELINGS, TOO.

THUS DOWN THE YEARS MUST LOVE MATURE, AND THROUGH COMPANIONSHIP, ENDURE; AS NEVERMORE TO BE ALONE THEY'VE FOUND A WORLD THAT'S ALL THEIR OWN.

HARRY W. FLETCHER

Pioneer Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

700,000 More

Some of our forecasters who are expert enough to be recognized by the press predict that ten years from now Oregon will have 700,000 more cars on our roads.

If that comes true, it is not too early to speculate on the impact of such numbers. Allowing 100 ft. of roadway for each car in operation, it would require 14,000 miles of single lane, 7,000 miles of double lane, or 3,500 miles of four lane highway to put them all in motion at one time.

It would require 4,000 acres of added storage or garage space. Maybe we'll have to park on the high desert or "soil bank" land. If the situation gets too bad we could allocate mileage or stagger hours of movement. We have a few years to figure it out.

Then Oregon could be faced with inadequate local revenue to support local services, and with no alternate way for the state to raise money to give to localities. Such a situation could force another special session of the legislature in the fall of 1969, when the pinch is felt.

Some people call this a dangerous game. Some may term it a vicious circle, to demand answers from a legislative body which ultimately must give all voters the final word on revenue measures. Many others express satisfaction in having the final say, and in the slowness of the democratic process.

In any case, sufficient petition signers have made the initiative proposal official. And it is safe to predict a lot of heated discussion on Ballot Measure No. 7 between now and November.