

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836
Phone 676-9228

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
The Heppner Gazette established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 13, 1912.



WESLEY A. SHERMAN
HELEN E. SHERMAN

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

ARNOLD RAYMOND
Shop Foreman
Printer

REGGIE PASCAL
Linotype Operator
KELLY GREEN
Apprentice

GAIL BURKENBINE
Society

Circulation
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 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. until noon Saturday.

Don't Blame the City Alone

When property tax statements are received by mid-October, residents living within the Heppner city limits will notice a 25.7% tax rate increase.

Residents of other Morrow cities, as well as those in most of the rural code areas, will also notice increases.

But when a taxpayer realizes that his taxes are increased, he shouldn't make the mistake of saying, "Heppner's taxes have increased 25.7%," or "Ione's taxes have increased 13.2%" or "Boardman's taxes have increased 42.2%," depending upon where he may live.

The fact is that property taxes which a person pays in any of these cities are divided among a number of taxing agencies and shouldn't be blamed on the city government alone.

It is true that taxes for city purposes in Heppner will be up, as they are in Ione and other cities in the county. But only a part of that is attributable to operation of the city itself. Included in the increase is the greater cost of operating schools; the increased cost of operating county government, including a road serial levy voted by the people; the somewhat higher cost of operating Blue Mountain College; and so on.

When a resident of Heppner pays his tax bill, he is paying to all these agencies, as well as the city government. In addition, he pays to the Port of Morrow and the Heppner cemetery district.

Even though taxes for city purposes remained the same as last year, a person's tax bill would be increased.

Heppner residents voted for a new swimming pool. The fact that they approved this at a special election removes it from the 6% limitation of the city budget. It just couldn't have been included in the budget because the amount needed was too large.

Now that the pool is here to enjoy, we have to start the job of paying for it, and this shows in the upcoming tax bills.

One of the greatest reasons for increases in taxes in the Heppner area is the farm land use deferral which resulted in a loss of valuation of \$1,358,000, or a percentage valuation decline of 4.75%, in the Heppner code area. This means that each taxpayer has to tangle up a little more money to pay his share of the total tax bill, comprised of the needs of all the taxing agencies and districts.

Heppner's city budget has always held well within the 6% limitation, and so when a resident of the city gets his statement, his reaction should not be one of blaming the city. Nor should he in Ione, nor Boardman (even though a new tax base was voted there which causes taxes for city purposes to rise more than 50%).

Spiraling costs have influenced budgets of most of the agencies and no single one can justly be called upon to take all the blame. Schools take by far the largest part of the tax dollar, amounting to 71.7% in Morrow county.

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Remember to Register

Morrow county traditionally has ranked high among Oregon's counties on the percentage of its eligible voters who cast ballots at elections. This is a great record and one that should be continued and enhanced.

Thus, as registration deadline approaches, this reminder is given for those who have delayed in taking the necessary little step of signing up to vote.

The clerk's office at the courthouse will be open all day Saturday—the deadline day—and until 8 p.m. to accommodate the late comers.

If you are not registered, or have doubts about your registration status, by all means go to the clerk's office and see that you are properly registered.

Let's point to another bumper turnout on general election day November 5.

About that Deadline . . .

Now that fall is here, schools are going full blast again, organizations are busy with activities and programs, and vacation time is in the past.

To the Gazette-Times, this means an upsurge in the amount of news copy coming in. At this writing, we are just about submerged.

With the loss of two of our staff to college, we are at a minimum crew, and we need the public's cooperation.

When publication time was moved back a year or so ago so that papers are out Thursday morning, this shortened the week and deadline for routine news moved back to Monday.

Recently, however, many of those who wish to have their items printed have slipped and we are being inundated with late news, coming in on Tuesdays.

We try not to be hard-nosed about this—since we want to serve the public to the best of our ability—but it comes to the place that we cannot guarantee publication of routine news that comes in Tuesday or later.

In order that we may do a good job for the area we serve, we ask that in all possible cases items be turned in by Monday.

College Official Talks at Ione High

Ione High school was host to a representative of the Oregon State colleges and universities on Wednesday, September 25, at 8:50 a.m.

Jack McFall, director of the office of high school relations, talked to the students and their parents about the opportunities for education and vocational-technical training beyond high school.

The presentation gave first-hand information about housing, course offerings, admission requirements, costs to attend, financial aid and scholarships, and other pertinent information.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Struthers and daughter moved Saturday, September 28, to Lewiston, Idaho, where they will make their home. In Lewiston he will be employed with the Beneficial Finance Company.

NOTICE

Office of Dr. Gerald Jones will be closed from noon Friday, Oct. 4 until Friday morning, Oct. 11.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THERE WAS A GOOD opportunity for some enterprising person to make a week's wages at the John Day Dam dedication if he had only known in advance what the situation would be. He could have sold dark glasses, caps, sun visors, and aspirin tablets. There should have been a ready market for several thousand of each.

The crowd of some 5,000 persons had to look directly into a fiery Eastern Oregon sun for a period of at least three hours.

Probably two-thirds had no headgear, and many used their programs to shade their eyes.

Vice President Humphrey was about an hour late and this prolonged the program so that it didn't end until after 1 p.m. It was planned to finish about 11:30.

On a hunch, we took a little straw cap and a pair of dark glasses. They may have made us look like a rube, but we at least left without feeling that our eyes were two burned holes in a blanket.

THE VICE PRESIDENT never explained why he was late for his engagement. It must have been agonizing for the committee which had worked so hard to get every detail to the gnarl's eyebrow. The Inland Empire Waterways association, the Corps of Engineers and others did a fine job.

Master of Ceremonies Homer T. Shaver kept something going through the long wait, calling heavily upon the musical entertainment. A barbershop quartet, 21st U. S. Army band, and Riverside and Arlington school bands came in very handy. It was a red letter day for the Riverside kids to have a good part in the proceedings. Their band is directed by Bob Chilman.

Bruce Cowan, executive vice president of the Inland Empire Waterways association, had a prominent role in developing the program. He will speak to the Heppner-Morrow county C of C on October 28.

A ROLLCALL of platform guests at the dedication would sound like a "Who's Who" of the Northwest with the vice president, three governors, four senators, six Congressmen and Congresswomen, the chief of the Army Corps of Engineers and many, many others.

We can't recall when we've ever seen so many dignitaries in one place. Many prominent state officials and other notable public figures were in the audience trying to find good places to sit.

Morrow county was represented on the platform by Oscar Peterson in his capacity as a director of Inland Empire Waterways.

Sherman county, on whose soil the dam is located on the Oregon shore, was not represented on the platform.

SECURITY PRECAUTIONS were rather awesome to those of us in the wide open Eastern Oregon country who are not used to the pressures of vast crowds. Military police were everywhere. They were snappy and polite, but the vice-president's late arrival gave them some real headaches.

Apparently they had been instructed that no one was to leave until the vice president's party departed.

After we had seen Humphrey throw the switch which either actually or supposedly caused the huge gate on the lock to be lifted and the dam's gates to be opened, we grabbed the G-T copublisher and started to hike out. We wanted to get to Forest Grove to visit mother who has been hospitalized.

We went behind the speaker's platform, but found Secret Service and MP's had formed a double line for an aisle for Humphrey to come down. Although he wasn't ready to leave yet, they wouldn't let anyone cross this aisle.

We managed to circumnavigate that, however, and got to the car, feeling we were home free. But we hadn't reckoned with another few dozen MP's, who, no doubt, had their orders.

When we got to the main road, we hit the first obstacle. The MP's were moving all cars to the side, and there was a long line waiting. It was obvious that no one was to leave until V. P. Humphrey decided to depart even though he was a quarter-mile back, chatting with dignitaries, no doubt.

We pulled over and settled to an expected long wait, but soon a white-gloved and courteous MP came up and asked, "Are you Press?" He had noticed the pink "Guest" sticker on the window.

We said, "Yes."

"You can go then," he said and waved us around the long line. We felt a bit guilty about this but were glad to get moving.

We came to another group of MP's and they waved us through, noticing the sticker.

But when we got to the head of the line, we hit a road block. A group of soldits was at this point, and one waved us to the side with a look that seemed to say, "How on earth did you get through?"

We moved over, then a bit confused because the other MP's had told us to proceed, started to go again when the coast seemed clear. We had made another couple hundred feet of progress when a glance in the rear-view mirror indicated we had made a mistake.

MP's were moving up rapidly in a Jeep with a red light flashing. They pulled up beside us.

"Didn't that soldier tell you to pull over, SIR!" exclaimed one with heavy emphasis on the "SIR!"

We explained that the others had told us to proceed as representatives of the Fourth Estate. This seemed to temper things a bit, and we put the car in gear, keeping a wary eye for machine gun nests.

This all happened about 1:15. We understand that the vice president didn't leave until about 2:30 p.m., but apparently they let the crowd go before that. Giles French tells us he waited for about an hour. He didn't have a press sticker on his car.

WE WEREN'T TRYING to fight the system but were trying to do as directed. We had a great deal of respect for the military men on duty there and think they did a real good job. They obviously had orders based on careful planning but when the time schedule went kaput, they were still stuck with the unrescinded orders.

WE'RE HAPPY to report that we found Mother Sherman very much better and home from the hospital after a real ordeal.

TO THE EDITOR

Baker 'Swallowed'

Gentlemen:
We are home once more at Rt. 1, Box 212, Portland, Ore. 97231. Kindly mail our paper here. Our copy goes from me to a friend, thence to Odd Fellows Home, where a number of Oregonians enjoy it.

Our work in Baker gave us an opportunity to spend week-ends in the lovely high mountains, catching fish, gathering a few choice "rocks," and visiting friends we had not seen since 1933. Paramount has practically "swallowed" Baker. One sees free-hand artistry—on plateglass windows on all sides of the streets.

If you have never visited Twin Mountains, 8905 ft. elevation, you should go see it. One overlooks Anthony Lakes, and such beauty.

Very truly,
Mrs. R. A. (Shirley) Holdaway

The Rhyming Philosopher

PARADOX

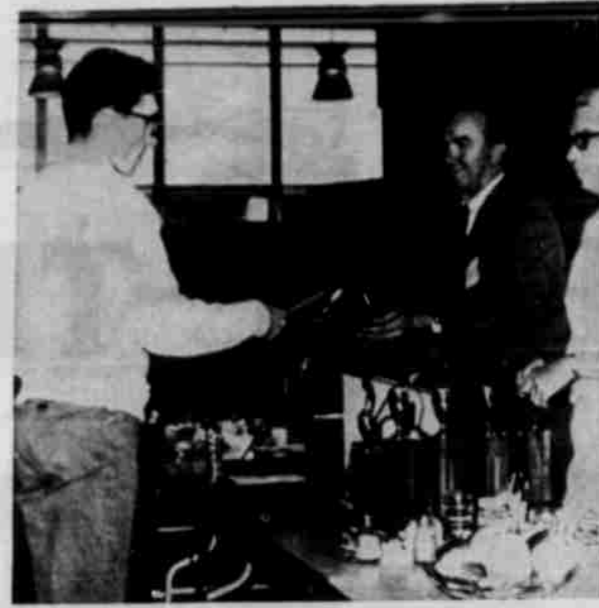
THOUGH WE'VE LEARNED TO PLACE RELIANCE ON THE MASTER MINDS OF SCIENCE, AND WE SUBSTITUTE A PAPER BILL FOR GOLD; WE CAN TRANSPLANT HUMAN LIVERS, EVEN DAM THE FUMING RIVERS, BUT THERE'S NO ONE YET CAN CURE THE COMMON COLD

WE NEED NO ONE TO INFORM US THAT OUR TAXES ARE ENORMOUS, AND WE'RE LUCKY IF WE EVER KEEP AHEAD. PRIVATE BUSINESS MUST STAY SOLVENT TO AVOID BANKRUPT INVOLVEMENT, BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS IN THE RED.

WE CAN TRAIN THE HUNGRY SAVAGE TO RAISE BETTER BEEF AND CABBAGE, AND WE'LL SOON CONTROL THE HOSTILE ATMOSPHERE. WE COMMAND A MOON-PROBE MISSILE TO OBEY OUR SLIGHTEST WHISTLE, BUT WE CAN'T CONTROL THE JUVENILES RIGHT HERE.

SOON THE YOUNGER GENERATION MUST ASSUME PARTICIPATION IN THESE PROBLEMS THEY'LL INHERIT AND MUST FACE. BE THEY STUDENTS OR ROMANERS, LET US PRAY THEY KNOW THE ANSWERS AND CONTRIVE TO MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

HARRY W. FLETCHER



THE HEHISCH, Heppner High school paper, received a runnerup award for 1967-68 sports stories at the recent Eastern Oregon Press conference in Pendleton. Mark Tullis, HEHISCH editor, accepts the award from Arnold Seeborg of Blue Mountain Community College. Mrs. Annamce Livermore, Pendleton High Journalism instructor, assisted in awarding certificates and traveling trophies at the conference. (HHS Photo).

School Bells



By DICK CARPENTER
Principal, Heppner High School

SPECTATOR BUS

The reason for taking spectator buses to athletic events is to furnish transportation to students, thereby eliminating the need for individual students to drive private cars.

It is a school district policy, and in my opinion a good policy, that students representing the school must travel in school district vehicles or in school district approved vehicles. Students may return from a game with their parents, provided arrangements are made in advance with the school office or the chaperones.

During the past years, we have attempted to have seating space available for all students who desired to attend an away game. However, during the winter months we sometimes restrict the traveling on long trips because of the road conditions and the late return hour.

The school has the authority to restrict student driving during school hours. The school cannot restrict driving at night. This is a parental responsibility. We strongly recommend that parents consider carefully the hazards and liabilities that are assumed when a son or daughter is allowed to drive a car to an away game.

QUESTION—An inquiry was received about college entrance procedures and scholarships. The answer to this question will be postponed until later because a full column is planned for this topic.

The topic for this column next week will be the Remedial

Gary Ball, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Ball, and Joe Monahan of Condon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Monahan, left Tuesday, September 24, from Arlington for Ft. Lewis, Wn., where they will enter basic training with the service.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

HEPPNER HIGH FOOTBALL
Sherman County at Moro, Oct. 4, 8 p.m. League game
Burns High at Heppner, Oct. 11, 8 p.m. League game
Wahatka at Heppner, Oct. 18, 8 p.m.
Support the Mustangs!

OES SOCIAL CLUB
Regular Meeting
Saturday, Oct. 5, 1:45 p.m.
Heppner Masonic Hall

LEGION MEETING
Legion and Auxiliary, Monday, Oct. 7
Potluck dinner, 7 p.m., special program and installation of officers

LEXINGTON HOBBY CLUB
Regular meeting of Hen House Biddies Hobby Club
Monday, Oct. 7, 1:30 p.m.
Lexington City Hall
Resin flower making

PUNT, PASS, KICK CONTEST
Boys 8-13, Register Now
Contest Saturday, Oct. 12
Trophies and prizes in age divisions

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Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

Why the Hullobaloo

About National political conventions after the Chicago performance? Conventions have been and are well established units of operation in our democratic society. Labor unions, teachers, carpenters, doctors, and every organized group operate in and through them. It is likely that they will continue to do so. Merely because the Chicago convention "flubbed it" is no reason to discredit the system. To a bewildered citizen it appears that if the National Political Convention fell short of expectations it was not the fault of the system but the people in them. Perhaps the method of selecting delegates in some states needs changing, but a national primary is not the answer. It would add chaos to confusion and destroy the political identity in political affairs. We need the stimulation of national conventions but they need not be as flamboyant as the one in Chicago.

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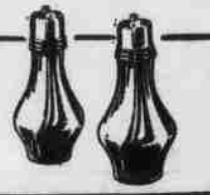
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