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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Knowing How Your Money is Spent

There is considerable indication that when the 1969 Oregon Legislature convenes in January one proposal to be presented will aim at repealing the law which requires each county to publish monthly the list of claims allowed and a summary of the proceedings of the county court.

This was one item that was considered at a recent series of regional meetings sponsored by the Association of Oregon Counties. There is no evidence that this is supported locally. In fact, Morrow county officials have generally evidenced an interest for the people to know how their tax money is being spent. The county budget has been printed in full each year in order to promote this understanding, even though it might have been summarized somewhat and still comply with the law.

We understand that the proposal of repealing the law to require publication of county claims paid was discussed at the 6-county meeting held here several weeks ago. Rep. Irvin Mann and Senator-elect Ken Jernstedt attended the meeting, and one of them called the matter to our attention.

Newspapers traditionally have taken the lead in upholding the "people's right to know," but sometimes it becomes discouraging. We have always contended that public officials who act in good faith and have nothing to hide should heartily subscribe to the same principle. When they move to repeal a law such as the one under consideration, it smacks of wishing to spend the public's money without the scrutiny of the people's eye.

Papers get paid for printing the county claims and proceedings, true, but it is a relatively small sum, the rate fixed by law. One weekly newspaper publisher has ascertained that his county pays more for dues to the Association of Oregon Counties each year than it pays for publishing the list of claims and proceedings.

At the same time papers print much similar material as news, without charging a cent for it, to let the public know how their agencies plan to spend, or are spending, their money.

We can go back through our file for the past year and point to hundreds of inches of news space devoted to the budgets of city, county and school district to promote this public understanding, as well as stories on taxes, tax assessments and all manner of items that concern the public pocketbook. All of this was done without payment of even one cent of public money.

It is disconcerting to think that any public official would consider trying to lessen the degree of understanding on the handling of public funds. Don't they know that if the public doesn't understand, or is suspicious of handling public funds, they will balk and refuse to support budgets and public expenditures?

This paper, like virtually all local newspapers, works diligently towards keeping government close to the people. We decry movements that woud consolidate counties and take government farther from the taxpayer who pays heavily to support his government; we work constantly for better communication between the people and their governmental units. That's why we go to every school board meeting and every city council meeting and write stories about them.

The enlightened public official—the one who earnestly seeks to serve the people—leaves nothing undone to promote understanding, which includes reporting how public money is spent.

Thus, we strongly oppose this impending proposal on repealing the law to print claims and proceedings. We think that, rather, it could well be expanded to include printing of expenses paid by municipalities and school districts as well.

Probably many persons never read the list of county claims paid (the list for last month is printed in this paper on page 4, section 2), but we are sure that many do. Whether they are completely read or not, the proceedings, by being published are on the record, subject to scrutiny, and this certainly must promote diligence on the part of public officials handling the public purse.

If our readers agree with us, we would appreciate having them tell County Judge Paul Jones, other county officials, as well as Rep. Mann and Senator-elect Jernstedt.

But if they feel we are wrong, and if they are not concerned with how this money is spent, we'd like to know that, too. It would save us hundreds of hours' work through the course of a year—that we devote to attending public meetings and writing the stories that concern public finance. This is time that we would be happy to use in leisure.

Lest we be misunderstood by local officials, we reiterate that at all local levels of government we have found nothing but 100% cooperation in reporting on public expenditures. The move towards the legislative proposition comes from other areas. We wish we had the names of the advocates at hand to print.

Hail to the Cardinals!

It was evident even three years ago—when a fine crop of sophomore athletes developed at Ione High school—that some good things were on the sports horizon for the Cardinals.

Now that these boys are seniors—and bolstered by some underclassmen—the big year has arrived.

Coach Gordon Meyers' football team has showed tremendous power in bowling over all opposition to date, running through nine games undefeated.

At this writing, they are just two games away from the state championship and going strong. However, the men are separated from the boys, so to speak, from this point on. It now becomes a case of champion against champion, and it is hard to measure the strength of a foe from another area.

Huntington is at Ione Saturday in the semi-final game of the 8-man competition. About the only thing known about the visitors is that they have a record probably as impressive as Ione's. Thus, it looms as a great game.

This is the year for Ione, and we think they have the goods that will not be denied. If they win Saturday, they will be host to the state championship game a week hence, with either Mohawk or Arlington furnishing the opposition.

But the Cards are taking it one game at a time. They must first win over Huntington. They're going great, they know they have a tough one facing them, but they are a fine bunch of athletes.

Everyone in Morrow county who has any interest in football and who can possibly make it should be out Saturday afternoon to root for the Cards.

Fitting Memorial

Probably few men in the field of agriculture in this state have been so well known and popular as the late E. R. Jackman who died last year at the age of 73.

He was a former county agent and later an OSU extension farm crops specialist until his retirement in 1959. Jackman made significant achievement in agriculture by pioneering programs which brought improvements in wheat, grass seed, potatoes, and range management practices for cattle and sheep.

In recent years, he achieved distinction as an author and lecturer. He co-authored several books, among them being "The Oregon Desert" with Reub Long of Fort Rock as the co-author.

Now underway across the state is a movement that would perpetuate the memory of this man whose life meant so much to so many, and Long is chairman of the movement.

Aim is to establish the E. R. Jackman Institute for Agricultural Resources, seeking an initial $150,000 for the purpose, and eventually the hope is to build an endowment of more than $1 million to sustain the institute.

Objectives of the institute would be wide, including stimulating youth in the area of natural resources, working on research, encouraging studies in the field of agriculture, and promoting public understanding of agriculture.

This is doubly significant at a time when the state is on the threshold of rather amazing developments in agriculture, as Walter Leth, director of the State Department of Agriculture, pointed out on his recent visit here.

The fact that so many in the state are getting behind the project is testimonial to the greatness of the man that the institute would commemorate.

In view of Jackman's dedicated interest in helping others through his chosen field, no memorial could be more fitting than this. It will continue the type of agricultural activity in which he was keenly interested and broaden into areas that he undoubtedly dreamed of.

Frank Anderson and Ken Smouse are co-chairmen of the Morrow county committee on the Jackman Memorial. They will welcome gifts for the project, and these may take several forms—cash, securities, real estate, or deferred gifts, such as through wills, trust agreements or life insurance. They will be glad to provide more information to those interested.

Salem Scene

by Everett E. Cutter

TAX REFORM, BEACH RIGHTS AWAIT LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Legislators convening in regular session two months from now clearly have their work cut out for them on two important issues, thanks to the recent defeat of Ballot Measures 6 and 7 at the polls.

On the first of these, the proposal to allow the state to purchase beach property, the legislature could face more work than if the measure had passed. Had voters approved the measure, a gasoline tax would have been written into the Constitution for the express purpose of saving sand areas in question.

Oregon voters, however, chose to resolve the question through legislative action. Such a course, incidentally, was recommended by many responsible organizations—including the Governor's Advisory Committee on a Livable Oregon.

The "beach bill" passed by the last legislature has been upheld in one circuit court decision, now being appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court. That bill retains public rights to all Oregon beaches up to a 16-foot level above the mean high tide, presenting a rather wavy line up and down the coast as the steepness of beaches varies.

But the last legislature also directed the State Highway Deparment to survey the entire coastline and recommended modifications to the law if needed. These recommendations will be made by January, and the new legislature will have these guidelines, and probably further court decisions, with which to work.

Want Beaches Open

Legislators assuredly are aware that Oregonians want the beaches kept open. One suspects that Rep. Norman Howard (D-Portland), long-time member of legislative highway committees and interim highway committees, speaks for the majority when he observes that what the voters rejected was a gas tax increase, not the concept of saving the beaches.

On the other issue, the 1½% property tax limitation, the work and worry of the legislature was greatly reduced by the voters' decision. The measure was defeated by a nearly 2-1 margin, averting financial difficulties for local governments and schools which would have forced legislators to act under the gun before effects of the revenue loss would be felt.

The message, however, should be clear: property tax relief is needed, less reliance should be placed upon local taxes for schools, and Oregon property owners definitely want property tax relief. The fact that Oregon voters chose to achieve this relief in an orderly way, in effect giving the legislature another chance, speaks well again for the discretion of our citizenry.

Tax Reform Chance Better

Chances for tax reform may well be better in the coming session. In 1967, in regular and special session, the issue repeatedly bogged down in disagreements between Democrats and Republicans, Senate and House, liberals and conservatives.

Now there will be new faces in the House, although the 38 Republicans-22 Democrats makeup is the same count as in January of 1967. But the nature of the Senate will change; with 14 Republicans and 13 regular Democrats, only three of the conservative Democrats remain. A new lineup in the Senate could help smooth the way for referral of a responsible tax reform measure to the people.

Such a measure could take the form of a sales tax. It could propose an income tax increase or a net receipts tax—a tax, essentially, which is levied on income from the first dollar earned. Almost certainly any referred measure would seek to lighten local property taxes by raising more money on the state level to provide more basic school support. The high cost of Oregon's quality education, and shifting that cost, may be expected to be the key to tax reform.

Some self-appointed "legislative psychologists" have said that defeat of Measure 6 and 7 would indicate to our lawmakers that Oregonians do not really want the beaches saved and do not really want lower property taxes too badly. This obviously would be dangerous thinking on the part of the legislature, and most of its members should know it.

Lest there be any doubt, readers of this newspaper may well choose to write their senators and representatives, reiterating their desires on these two issues. Now that we have passed these important problems to the 1969 legislative body for resolution, the least we can do is to give all the guidance and support possible to those we elected.

School Bells

HEPPNER HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

By MRS. MADGE THOMSON

Operating a library is essentially a cooperative enterprise. The Heppner High school library serves 210 students and 22 teachers for study, reference, and for recreational reading. It is open before and after school and during the noon hour, in addition to the regular school hours. Mrs. Madge Thomson is the librarian and audio-visual coordinator. Gary Thompson is the machines coordinator, Mrs. Sue Jones is half-time librarian aide, and the following students receive one credit for the library science class: Martha Pierce, Dan Sweeney, Valerie Boyer, Norita Marquardt, Julie Ayers, Teresa Harshman, and Debbie Bennett.

Approximately 7,000 different titles of books can be found in this library, 45 different periodicals, six newspapers, and 900 filmstrips. Due to some gift donations by interested people, we are able to have this fine selection of books and periodicals. In addition, the vertical files contain a wealth of information such as pamphlets, maps, charts, newspaper clippings and information about Morrow county. A picture file is also maintained, as well as an author file.

Center Furnishes Materials

Additional materials are delivered twice a week from the I.E.D. Center located at Pendleton and include films, filmstrips, tapes, models, maps, charts, records, slides, and study prints.

Selection of materials is made by the librarian and teacher, and recommended guides for high school libraries are used for these selections.

The ability to use reference tools is an indispensable aid to the gaining of knowledge by all serious students. At the beginning of the school year, the freshman class is given a two-week's training period by the librarian for learning how to use these reference tools. In addition, the students are also instructed how to use the 25-volume index from the Oregon State library which is available in this library, and from which the students and teachers can order books from Salem.

The paperback rack is very popular with the students, and additional titles are being added from time to time.

Resource Center Developed

A resource center for Social Studies and English is being developed this year where students can go and find books and other materials, in addition to the main library, and each period a teacher is there to help students. Classroom libraries are also set up in the various classrooms for student use.

Repairing bibliographies for teachers, compiling lists of newly catalogued books, and individual help in finding material are some of the services offered.

A few rules and regulations are necessary such as maintaining quiet so that others in the room may work undisturbed, help keep the room, books and all materials clean and neat, and return books promptly as others may be waiting for the same book. This assures equal opportunities for all students, and all students and teachers can thus be served efficiently.

We would like to encourage all parents and interested community members to visit and use this library any time. You are welcome

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

DEATH of E. Markham Baker of Ione in Arizona Monday night comes as a shock to all his friends and relatives, the word being received here Tuesday indicating that he suffered a heart attack. Ironically, we had met the Bakers' son, Ron, of Hermiston, for the first time Sunday although we had heard much of his achievements.

Ron is vice president of the Oregon Cattlemen's association and made the regional news recently at the OCA convention as a result of the talk he made there, it being reported on television.

Ron came to the Methodist church here Sunday to speak at Laymen's Sunday in his capacity as subdistrict lay leader.

After the service, a number of local members spent a few minutes visiting with him, talking about his parents, his background and interests. None had any thought at that time of the saddening news that would come the next day.

E. Markham Baker was one of Morrow county's prominent residents, and all members of the family have brought credit to the county. We sympathize with them at this time of sorrow.

* * *

THE TIME when computers play an important part in the life of our school children may be closer than we realize, according to an interesting report brought to the meeting of the school board Monday night by Principal Harold Beggs of Ione.

He told of the "Otis" program, which stands for "Oregon Total Information Service." This is a data processing system that involves public schools with a computer centered in Eugene.

By the end of this year, Beggs said, 200,000 Oregon school children will be connected to "Otis." It will store records of students, make up their report cards (even to addressing the envelopes), correlate IQ's and student grades, set up inventory controls for schools, make school district payrolls, and do many, many more functions. All manner of school information can be stored in its electronic memory bank.

Pendleton is now working through the Otis plan, at least partially. Teletype connections enable the Pendleton system to send information to the computer directly, and in turn, the computer can feed back desired information. This comes in a fraction of the time that the computations or work could be done manually.

Presently the system is financed largely as a federal project, but cost must soon be borne locally. It is expected that within a couple of years some 400,000 school children will have ties not only to their teachers and to their mother's apron strings, but also to Otis.

The Morrow county school administration is keeping an eye on "Otis" to see how it works out. It is reported that they are having some problems with the system—some "bugs" yet to be ironed out.

Supt. Ron Daniels says that he doesn't think it would save the district any money, but it conceivably could widen the range of things that could be done to improve education.

For the time being, the county district is just going to keep in touch with Otis, but the time may come when this computer knows more about our kids than we do.

* * *

AFTER SPENDING several hours over the week-end cleaning up the yard at our abode we are moved to remark that the year of drought didn't appear to hurt the leaf crop any.

* * *

WE WONDER if many students at Heppner High school watch the TV program, "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir." Some strange things have been happening up there lately. One report says that when some students went to get a drink of cold water this week, it came out hot. And Principal Dick Carpenter said Monday that the fire alarm went off all by itself, and the building was evacuated.

He doesn't attribute these things either to student mischief or to the supernatural. The principal said that he believes the confusion of hot and cold water came from a malfunctioning check valve in the system and the fire alarm went off because of some sort of short circuit.

* * *

"THESE THINGS We Note" in Giles French's weekly column of the same title in the Sherman County Journal of November 14:

"Mr. Nixon's greatest handicap is the people who expect all their troubles to melt away upon his inauguration. There's too much ice accumulated to expect such thawing."

. . .

"Doesn't it beat all—the persistence of miniskirts right into cold weather?"

. . .

"Voters disapproved about half of the bond issues at the recent election. It takes a long time to make a voter smart, but it eventually happens."

. . .

"The defense unit of the Forty-Niners did a lot of playing in Sunday's game, and did they need the practice!"

PROPERTY TAX FAX

If you have a question concerning real or personal property please state all the facts as briefly as possible and mail it to Mrs. Joyce Ritch, Morrow county special assessor, or to P. O. Box 418, McMinnville, Oregon, 97128 under the name "PROPERTY TAX FAX". Please ask only one question per sheet. Then watch this column for the answer.

QUESTION

I am a local merchant and a short time ago a man called on me, identified himself as being an auditor for the State Tax Commission and asked to see my books. He said he was checking personal property returns. Is this legal?

ANSWER

O.R.S. 306.129 provides that the State Tax Commission shall audit about 25% of all taxable inventory accounts each year; and audit every account at least once each 5 years in each county.

Guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rod Murray and family are Mrs. Fran Yackey and son David of Newburg, who drove up to spend a few days visiting. Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Yackey are sisters.

The Rhyming Philosopher

PERSEVERANCE

IN POLITICS, BUSINESS AND LOVE AFFAIRS
WHERE LADY LUCK OFTEN WILL INTERVENE,
WHEN RESULTS FALL SHORT OF OUR PLANS AND PRAYERS:
WHAT'S THE USE TO REPINE ON WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.
FOR REGARDLESS OF TRENDS YOU MIGHT HAVE FORESEEN
THE THING HAS BEEN DONE AND THE MOLD IS SET.
BUT THE FUTURE REMAINS WITH ALL IT CAN MEAN
TO THE ONE WHO CAN SAY "I'M NOT BEAT YET!"

WHEN YOUR WAY GETS LOST IN THE TRAPS AND SNARES
OF OPPOSING FORCE OR A SECRET SCHEME;
WHEN IT SEEMS YOU'RE ALONE AND NO ONE CARES,
THEN IT'S TIME TO REPLENISH YOUR WORTHWHILE DREAM
WITH THE BOLSTERING STRENGTH OF YOUR SELF-ESTEEM,
AND A SOLID RESOLVE TO BUILD ANEW
WITH A FIG FOR THE THRALL OF THE OLD REGIME
WHILE YOU TRY FOR THE GOAL LONG OVERDUE.

WHEN YOU VIEW WITH DISMAY THE PRESENT-DAY SCENE
AND THE YEARS GONE BY AND WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN.
WITH MOTIVES YOU HAD WHICH JUST SLIPPED IN REVERSE:
ONE THING IN YOUR FAVOR — IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WORSE.

HARRY W. FLETCHER

Charlie Daly Home After Back Surgery

Charlie Daly, chairman of the Morrow county rodeo committee, is home again following recent surgery at St. Anthony hospital, Pendleton. He underwent an operation October 23 for removal of a ruptured disc in his spine.

Daly says that he can now assume only two positions, those of standing up or lying down. However, he says that he is getting along very well and is walking two miles a day to help speed recovery.

TO THE EDITOR

Root Says Thanks

To the Editor:

May I express to those who supported me for election as 2nd District Congressman my sincere word of thanks. The experience of being a candidate for public office has been very satisfying.

At the risk of leaving many people out, I would like to thank particularly Red and Gena Leonard, Terry Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jepsen, and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Winter. I would also like to thank The Gazette-Times for the continued coverage of my campaign in order to bring a more informed choice to the people of Morrow county.

Again, thank you all very much.

Sincerely,
Marv Root

Pioneer Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

John Day's Ghost

Not every hunter who roamed the Blue Mountains for elk this season brought home a wapiti, but any hunter with a fraction of imagination (two fifths or better) could tell a story worth hearing. Many of them did. One was about a phantom mountain man, John Day, dressed as the Indians left him. There is some variation in the stories but enough in common to identify the ghost.

One camp saw him flit across a meadow riding a bull elk using a rattlesnake for a quirt. One nervous nimrod swears shade passed his campfire leading a tom cougar by a shoe string. Two hunters camped at Granite insisted they saw him searching the old mines for rusty scrap iron, and using it for chewing gum. He was seen by moonlight at Granite, Arbuckle Mt. and Catherine Creek at exactly the same time, midnight.

That isn't too surprising. If a haunt can appear anywhere anytime, there is reason why it couldn't appear everywhere at the same time. It is a good thing the hunters put this story together. That might have been Day's last trip.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

CARNATION CLUB DINNER
Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
Degree of Honor members and families
Sat., Nov. 23, 6:30 p.m.
Episcopal Parish Hall

4-H ACHIEVEMENT PARTY
Friday, Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m.
Heppner High Multipurpose Room
All So. Morrow County 4-H club members, leaders and parents urged to attend

BAKED FOODS SALE
Sat., Nov. 23, 9:00 to 12:00 noon
By Methodist WSCS
Next to Gardner's Men's Wear
All types of baked goods for Thanksgiving

PUBLIC CARD PARTY
Sat., Nov. 23, 8 p.m.
Ione Masonic Hall
By Ione Bunchgrass Rebekah Lodge
Bridge and pinochle, drawing for afghan. $1 person
Everyone welcome

THANKSGIVING DANCE
Turkey Hop, Sat., Nov. 30, 9:30 p.m.
Heppner Fair Pavilion
Sponsored by Soroptimist Club of Heppner

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