

THE HEPPNER 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 15, 1912.



MEMBER
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
Founded - 1885

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

District Shows New Conservation Concept

This is the 25th year for the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation district, and the Silver Anniversary will be noted at the annual meeting Tuesday night in the Lexington Grange hall.

It is enlightening to review the achievements of the district, for they are many. It is also interesting to note the changing concept of conservation being practiced by the members of the district and the supervisors.

Perhaps now the words "resource development" have a fitting place in the district's name. It isn't hard to understand why this should be so when one peruses the year's annual report as published on pages 2 and 3 of the second section of this paper.

Virtually all of the projects with which the Soil Conservation District has been connected through the past year—as well as their planning for the future—concern resource development.

Consider their work with the Penland Prairie project, their connection with the discussed nuclear plant irrigation project, their work on the Rhea Creek project, their soil survey in the north end of the county, and their strong promotion and keen interest in irrigation through their work in such projects as the Columbia South Side project.

All these have one common characteristic—development for a better future.

Perhaps the word, "conservation," though still carrying the best of connotations, is not quite broad enough any more for a district which shows the vision and progressive intent of the one here.

Conservation—as the careful preservation and protection of resources, and management of them to prevent exploitation, destruction and neglect—remains a fine and noble purpose. All humans interested in preserving for posterity are dedicated to this.

But the Heppner district, as revealed by its works, seems to be adding a new dimension—that of utilizing and developing its resources, as contrasted with merely saving them.

While they are protecting our soil and water resources, it is now apparent that they are also working, as the good stewards they are, towards maximum utility. Perhaps the saving of the resource can best be assured by using it under planned and careful management.

The district's report last year was judged the best in Oregon, but this year's report, covering the two pages in the second section, may be even better from the standpoint of constructive activity and accomplishments. The report was compiled by Ken Turner, vice chairman of the supervisors, and represents the combined work of many. The pages include stories of vital importance to this area, for it is certain that wherever there is development of soil and water in Morrow county, the conservation district is involved.

While the Heppner district doesn't rest on its laurels, the men who have made it what it is deserve hearty congratulations on their Silver Anniversary.

We share their pride in emphasizing that: The district has one-half of Oregon's stripcropping; it has one-third of Oregon's diversion terraces; it has the largest acreage of stubble mulch in Oregon; it has been selected Oregon's No. 1 district twice; it has had three State Conservation Men of the Year winners, and two consecutively in 1967 and 1968; it has had a state champion in the Conservation speech contest and four state finalists; and it had the best report of Oregon's 66 districts last year.

Now, it's hard to top a record like that, but with their concept of resource development, this district is going to continue to show the way to others.

—And for the rest of Morrow county, the frosting on their Silver Anniversary cake is that you and I—John Q. Citizen—reap the rewards of their outstanding work!

Keeping Posted on Meetings

A suggestion has been made that The Gazette-Times run a weekly schedule of meetings of local governmental agencies, those of other public bodies, and of at least some community organizations.

The suggestion came from a person who said that he knows when the city council meets because the fire siren blows for its meetings, but he had no idea when the others meet.

He proved his point for the need of a schedule when he made this statement because the fire siren doesn't blow for council meetings! It blows for fire drills—two blasts on the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month.

This schedule should include school board meetings, city council meetings, county court meetings, Port commission meetings, fair and rodeo meetings, Lions Club, Soroptimist club, Chamber of Commerce meetings and probably many others.

This man made a good case for the need of communication. Somehow, since we know pretty well when these meetings are held, we thought most everyone did, but apparently they do not.

So we intend to follow up on this suggestion, and just as soon as we get it organized, we will attempt to keep such a schedule in print regularly. We will try to contact the different agencies and organizations to ask them to supply a list of regular meetings and to keep us posted on special meetings of public interest that they may schedule. The effectiveness of the schedule will depend on their response, especially in reference to the special meetings.

We'll leave the matter open to any standing organization that wants to be included but have a little apprehension because we probably wouldn't have space to list every single organization in the county. We'll do our best, though, and will cry "Uncle" in the unlikely event that the response overwhelms us.

Charles and Helen Ruggles have done the public a service for years by running their popular "Community Billboard" column on this editorial page. It has been a much appreciated service. This column, however, is not to be used for regular meetings but rather for coming programs, public events, dinners, community sales and so on which need special publicizing.

It is hoped that this schedule of meetings will help the local channels of communication.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

BE OF GOOD CHEER! The heat wave will be over sooner than you think.

IF YOU WANT to beat the perils of cabin fever and snow claustrophobia, why not use a little psychology? Get your lawn chairs out of the garage or basement, don a short-sleeved Hawaiian shirt, set up the chairs in the yard while nonchalantly disregarding the snow, and pretend you're having a siesta in the sun.

SOMEONE FROM AFAR made a jesting remark about one of Morrow county's slogans.

"What about your 'Banana Belt' now?" he leered.

Well, sir, maybe our theme song at the moment should be, "Yes, We Have No Bananas Today!"

But we are a lot closer to being a Banana Belt than Eugene or Roseburg, or Coos Bay.

And another nice thing about it is that we in this county have good use for the snow, since it means moisture for our crops. Except for some of the kids, the western Oregonians can see no dad-blamed good in it!

MAYBE WE could make a game out of it. For instance, we might devise some awards for those who do the best job of cleaning off their walks. (We're all getting a lot of practice on this.)

The business folks on the Main street block between Willow and Center on the east side did a real neat job this week, and we understand Mayor Bill Collins was in the thick of it. So did those on the west side of Main on the block between Willow and May, in the neighborhood of Western Auto, Gardner's, Turner, VanM, and B. and Peterson's.

In both cases, they slicked off the sidewalk and disposed of the snow by making little mountains at the curb, but neatly cleaning the walk bare in between so that motorists have easy access.

In our observations, we'd just about have to say that John Pfeiffer is the snow shoveling champ. He hardly lets a flake fall before he has it cleared off from around his Western Auto store.

SOMEONE PROBABLY should put a sign around some of the buildings here, "Danger from Falling Icicles."—And we don't mean this entirely in jest. There are some mighty big icicles developing around, and some of them hang precariously. When their weight gets too much, they can come plunging towards the ground and be a lethal spear. We saw one such about six feet long—that kids were playing under. A light tap from a pole was all that was needed to knock it down. They're pretty—but dangerous.

DIFFERENT FOLKS are coming up with a wide gamut of new problems as the snow and cold lingers. One couple, whose names we will keep anonymous, finally went to a neighbor's house to take showers. Their frozen pipes have kept them out of the bathtub at home.

Another family found thick ice in the attic of their home. It started to thaw and ran down curtains and draperies until they were removed.

—And a good many of us, perhaps even most of us, may have other cute little problems when the thaw starts!

IF IT WARMS UP too fast, it might result in the worst mess you ever thaw.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT and the Pioneer Memorial Hospital deserve medals! Together they have accomplished a significant achievement. NO LONGER will the fire horn blow 12 long piercing blasts on the first Monday of each month at noon!

Since the hospital has agreed to handle fire calls on an emergency basis and assures that someone is on duty the clock-around, the 12-blast monthly test is no longer considered necessary.

Those in the downtown area close to the air horn will rejoice at this. If one happened to be talking on a long distance telephone call when the shattering unearthly walls sounded, he had the choice of hanging up or waiting it out. There was no hearing anyone above that!

PROPERTY TAX FAX

QUESTION: How can I find out who owns a piece of unimproved property?

ANSWER: The Assessor's office can help you here. The more information you have about the property the easier it will be to determine the correct ownership. Adjacent property owners, if unable to give you the owner's name, may know the acreage involved. The name of the adjacent property owners also helps. Measure the distance to the property from the nearest crossroads and how far and what direction from the nearest town, strange hall or other landmark. Bring this information to your assessor and let him take it from there. There is no charge.



FRANK HALVORSEN

Shooting hot enough to melt our snow?

MAN ALIVE! How Frank Halvorsen is re-writing the record books at Lone! We haven't seen much mention of his basketball feats in the daily papers, but he is currently scoring at the rate of 27.8 points per game! If this doesn't lead all high school individual basketball scoring in the state, it must be close to it.

Frank tallied 46 against Umapine and almost certainly would have gone over 50 if Coach Gene Dockter hadn't mercifully (for Umapine) taken him out when the victory was assured.

Adding to the scoring achievement was the fact that Frank made 25 points in one quarter—the third.

In getting the 46, he shot an amazing average, too—hitting 20 of 27 tries for a percentage of 74! That's almost hot enough to melt all the snow in Morrow county.

Previously, Frank's high for the year was 37 against Riverside. Just to show that he is human, he dropped to 33% against Umatilla at lone.

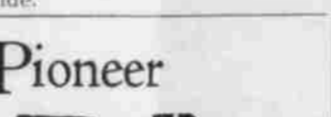
SPEAKING OF SCORING records, that 90 points Heppner shovels in against Enterprise was the highest we can recall for a Mustang team, but we haven't really researched it to say for sure that it is a record.

We have some really interesting basketball teams here this year—lone rated No. 2 in the state in B ranks with Wallowa on top, and Heppner now rated sixth in the Oregonian's A-2 poll.

JUST ONE MORE cold weather note: Sheriff John Mollahan asks that we remind the public to be sure to take care of their livestock in this severe time. Livestock growers do this as a matter of course, but maybe one animal or two aren't quite so well versed in caring for them during such a cold streak.

The sheriff said that he had received a complaint or two about animals not being cared for. However, he checked one case out Tuesday, taking the veterinarian along, and found that the stock of the farmer in question were being fed, being watered, and seemed to be getting humane treatment, even though they were on the lean side.

Pioneer



Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

A Barter Man

One of the men who deserves a place in Eastern Oregon history was Clint Haight, one time editor of the Blue Mountain Eagle. Clint's economic philosophy included loans without interest and more barter. The latter created a situation between us. I had refused to subscribe for his paper and he refused to quit sending it until I owed him \$20 for 10 years subscription. We agreed to barter. I put one ton of U. S. No. 1 prunes in his name with a Milton-Freewater shipper. He cancelled his bill. In February he wrote "I have a check for \$888 that bounces, what do I do?" I replied "Keep sending it in. It will settle down in time." It did. Haight went to the legislature and made history in that body by howling like a coyote during a prolonged session. He said "I'm lonesome for the sage brush country." These are two of his many unusual performances that made him a man to be remembered.

Knifty Sewers Meet

On January 27 a meeting of the Knifty Sewers 4-H club was called to order by Sharon McCarl, president. Minutes were read by Anita Davidson. There was no new or old business. Refreshments were served by Sharon McCarl. Our next meeting will be on February 10. Debra Yocum, reporter

STATE CAPITOL

Special Election Possible by April

By ROBERT F. SMITH
Speaker of the House

Attention during the first three weeks of the legislative session has been focused on our biggest issue: property tax relief.

There will be no delaying on this subject as there was during the 1967 session because an early decision is a necessity. The committee members will return to Salem tomorrow to begin drafting the final product, which will then be presented to the House.

The Tax Committee chairman, Rep. Floyd Hart of Medford, has told me that the property tax relief bill should be completed by the middle of February, with a vote of the people possible by the middle of April.

This timing would allow local government officials to know how much state revenue will be available before they put the final touches on their budgets for the coming year.

TO THE EDITOR

Those Other Days

To the Editor:
It was late in the day that Tuesday of April 4, 1965, when the train pulled in at Heppner. It had been a hard seven days grind from Galax, Virginia, for a 19-year-old lad who wanted to go west. Signs of the Great Flood were still about, such as piles of trash against the stockyard fences.

But the Surrey with the Fringe on top was waiting, so two "drummers" and myself histed our grips aboard and rode up to the Palace Hotel, which was on same corner as Ford Agency is now. Among the sites on our leisurely ride to the hotel were several Chinese cafes, couple of livery stables and a hardware store with quaint motto, "We have it, we'll get it or it is not made." Also a place of travelers' refreshments, named "Frog Pond," and operated by Vic Groshens much to the delight of the weary and the forlorn.

Thusly, was I introduced into Heppner. The streets were dimly lit and muddy but cobblestone crosswalks gave hope to the future and destiny awaited. Next morning my first job was born. Art Minor who was owner of Penland Land & Livestock Co., took me on as night herder to his foreman, Jerome O'Conner.

I must hasten to add at this point which with turns of time and tide it is just possible some of the facts related here may have evaporated just a smidgin, but bear with me.

—Long time friend, as related to his eldest son—Clair H. Cox, Corvallis, Oregon

Memories

Dear Wes and Helen:
Enclosed you will find our check as payment for another year's subscription to the Heppner Gazette-Times. We just cannot go into the new year without the weekly edition to keep us up to date on the latest news from "home."

Last week's edition with pictures of the courthouse and a wet snow storm in Heppner brought back many memories. A resident of Morrow county for over 61 years and 245 changing seasons left many scars on my old carcass, which the healing sunshine of Arizona is trying to preserve. (Wes, I just had to say that, please pardon.) Remember, you asked me once why I ever left Oregon.

With every good wish for a prosperous new year, I remain, Sincerely,
Garnet Barratt

Meeting Changed

Previously scheduled potluck dinner and regular meeting of the Heppner Wranglers riding club, set for February 5, have been cancelled. These will be held at a later date, with the improvement of weather conditions, officers announce.

WE'RE UP TO OUR EARS IN CONFUSION AND TEARS, SURROUNDED BY WRECKAGE AND TROUBLE. ALAS! CHRISTMAS TOYS SENT TO SMALL GIRLS AND BOYS ARE SMASHED TO EXTINCTION AND RUBBLE.

THERE'S DOLLS UP IN TRACTION AND TRUCKS OUT OF ACTION AND RAILROADS DEFUNCT BY COLLISIONS; THERE'S CRUIZERS WITH BRUISES AND BIKES WITH ABUSES AND FOOTBALLS WITH FATAL INCISIONS.

SO GRAMPS AND HIS HAMMER RESPONDS TO THE CLAMOR WITH RIVETS AND WIRE AND SOME STICKUM; REPAIRS ARE EFFECTED AS MOST KIDS EXPECTED, FOR GRANDPA'S THE CHAP WHO CAN FIXUM.

BUT WHO RECOGNIZES THAT TERRIBLE CRISES WE'RE HEIR TO WITH NO CHANCE TO VOTE ON; THOSE SOX AND CRAVATS AND THOSE HIDEOUS HATS WHICH SISTERS AND AUNTS SEEM TO DOTE ON.

THEY OUGHT TO KNOW BETTER THAN GIVE US A SWATER.

ENDOWED LIKE A NIGHTMARE, EXCUSE THEM! BUT EACH JANUARY IT SEEMS NECESSARY TO WEAR THEM, THEN SNEAKILY LOSE THEM!

HARRY W. FLETCHER

It would also allow the legislature, which will still be in session, to examine alternatives should the referral be unsuccessful.

There are many things which we must take into consideration before making our final decision.

First, is there a real need for property tax relief? Those opposing a referral to the people do not seem to think so, but a look at the figures should tell us that property taxes are bearing too much of the burden of local government costs.

Property taxes statewide have risen by more than 110 per cent in the past 10 years. This year, they jumped by \$55.2 million, and we have every reason to believe that the increase will be even larger next year.

Second, should property tax relief go to all Oregon citizens who are presently paying property taxes, or should relief be limited only to certain classes of taxpayers?

Some opponents of across-the-board property tax relief argue that this would constitute a shift from business to the homeowner.

But what is business? It is more than giant corporations and utilities. Business is people. Business is the corner grocery store, the laundry, the barber shop, the family operated feed store, farms and ranches.

Third, should some type of meaningful limitation be applied so that property taxes would not be able to revert to the spectacular increase?

Proponents of homeowner only relief do not provide for a limitation. The revenue from

this program would rapidly be gobbled up in a few short years. In other words, we would be right back where we started in another few years.

Fourth, should the state assume a greater share of the cost of primary and secondary education? Presently, the state contributes about 24 per cent of the cost of local education. Under the governor's program, the state would provide at least 50 per cent of the cost of education, thus decreasing the burden on the property tax.

These are just a few of the factors we must take into consideration, so you can see that this is a very complex subject with no easy answers.

As the property tax relief program begins to take shape, we can discuss these points again, with specific application to the bill.

Above all, however, I think it is fundamental that the people be allowed to make the final decision. It has been five years since an income tax proposal has been referred to the people, and it has been more than 20 years since a sales tax referral.

I don't presume, as some do, to speak for the people of Oregon, or to state with any certainty whether or not they want property tax relief badly enough to pay the price of an alternative revenue.

We feel that the people of Oregon are capable of speaking for themselves on this subject, and we are determined that they shall have this right.

I am very eager to hear of your ideas or suggestions about property tax relief, and look forward to hearing from you.

YOUR SENATOR REPORTS...

BY KEN JERNSTEDT, STATE SENATOR

18th District, Including Morrow county

Many people have asked me how my duties in the Senate compare with my duties while in the House of Representatives last session. I thought that it might be a good idea to give that question a little consideration in this article.

Let me say that coming down here knowing everyone in the Senate before I arrived has helped a lot. It also helps to be able to go over to the House of Representatives and know two-thirds of those members at the beginning of the session.

The members of the Senate have gone out of their way to make the five new members feel at home. My committee assignments are very much to my liking and ones that should be helpful to the area I serve.

The office space provided for Senators is most helpful as far as office work is concerned—both for myself and my secretary. I am hopeful that someday this can be provided for members of the House.

The fact that there are only 30 members in the Senate puts a lot more emphasis on each member's vote—especially when the fact that we have even more committees is considered. Five members on a committee are much more common while most House committees have nine members. It can readily be seen that three members can control a vote in a five-man situation. We do have a few seven-man groups.

Because I now serve six counties instead of two in the House, I carry on a much larger correspondence than I did two years ago—with a larger variety of problems to solve and questions to answer.

At this stage of the session it is difficult to estimate how many of a loan the committee assignments will be as very few of the bills have reached the committees. For instance, we have just received our first Agriculture bills and will start hearings on them next week.

It is my intention to discuss these bills in this article as they come before my various committees. I will also try to keep you informed concerning other bills before the other committees.

Remember—you can always contact me by writing to me here at the Senate, Salem, Oregon.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

HEPPNER BASKETBALL
Friday, Jan. 31, Wahtonka, there, League game.

SAT. FEB. 1, DoSales, here
Friday, Feb. 7, Madras, here, League game.
Support the Mustangs!

GRADE SCHOOL
Friday, Jan. 31, Arlington, here, 2 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 7, Pilot Rock, there, 2 p.m.

ELEMENTARY PTA
Rescheduled meeting, Wed. Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Film and panel discussion on "Sex, the Moral Dilemma." High school students and parents welcome.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION ANNUAL MEETING
Tuesday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. Lexington Grange Hall
Special program, "Water for Morrow County Farmlands."

VALENTINE CARD PARTY
By Sans Souci Rebekah Lodge Saturday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m., IOOF Hall
Bridge, Pinochle, Refreshments
Public invited

MOTHERS' CLUB DINNER
Sweetheart Dinner, Saturday, Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m.
Episcopal Parish Hall
Members and invited guests
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