

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Chaff and Chatter Wes Sherman

THERE IS notice elsewhere in this paper that the City of Heppner is going to pursue a course of enforcement of its parking regulations, starting March 31.

Let anyone think this action comes through the "power of the press" as a result of last week's editorial ("Work 'Em—Or Take 'Em Out"), we hasten to explain that the city was already working on the matter. A committee had been named to study the parking situation, and this week's action is the result of its deliberations. If we had realized the move was afoot, we'd have drawn in our horns for a while.

City councils throughout the length and breadth of this land learn that some problems absolutely have no satisfactory solutions, no matter which way they turn.

One such perennial problem is that of dogs. Councils are constantly caught between the dog lovers and the dog haters, and as surely as spring rolls around, the dog problem will come up.

It is always discussed with sincerity, and opinions come forth with the hope that someone with a super gift of wisdom will supply the answer to please all. But after all have vented their feelings, the matter drifts into limbo once more to slumber until the next spring.

And so it is with parking meters. There are those who like them and those who don't like them, and never the twain shall meet. The council, charged with the responsibility of administering city business efficiently and justly, is caught in the middle.

Experience has shown that if there are no meters, some will usurp the space available for parking. In the past, the business people themselves, and their employees, were the worst offenders. This despite the fact that they have the most to lose by taking their customers' parking space.

On the other hand, it is something of a nuisance to feed them. One of the nice things about living in a place like Heppner is that things are more informal. Jaywalking is prevalent, and other regulations that must be rigidly enforced for peace and safety in more congested areas are winked at. It would seem that parking meters are a bit out of tune with this tone of living, being a symbol of mechanization and urban life in an area where the space is great and the air pure.

But a few years ago, the matter was discussed at Chamber of Commerce and most of the business people felt parking meters should be left on the streets.

Although we'd just as soon see the heads removed and the steel posts used for tying horses at rodeo time, the majority rules. The council's action, this week is good because the intent is to see that all obey the rules—not just the conscientious few.

Maybe their action will take care of things—at least until another spring rolls around.

IT'S SURPRISING how many people here did not recognize Kit Anderson when he came to work with the G-T during his spring vacation from OSU. When he left with his parents to go to Africa for two years in 1965, Kit was a boy, and many remember him as a youngster. But four years make a lot of difference. Kit has shot up in height, attended one year of school in Ibadan, Nigeria, graduated from Albany High school and has a year at OSU. He has been working for the Albany Democrat-Herald to cover OSU sports in his spare time and also has worked part time as a disc jockey and announcer for an Albany radio station.

When Kit was a freshman at Heppner High, he worked part time at the G-T and showed a fine talent for writing, especially in sports. His journalistic interest is continuing, and so he is joining the Gazette-Times this summer to assist with news and advertising.

We have visited with him from time to time since he returned from Africa, and he looks like the same Kit to us, but he is now so tall that many did not recognize him when we went around the business section Monday.

The week here is to help him get acclimated to the newspaper routine, weekly style, and we're looking forward to having him with us this summer.

JUST NOTICED an item in "EDU/CABLE," a little sheet of information sent out by the Oregon Board of Education, which is quite a surprise.

"Never in the state's history has a passenger been killed while riding an Oregon school bus," it states. "Those 3,000 yellow school buses which carefully deliver thousands of Oregon students to their classrooms every day represent the state's largest transportation system—public or private."

This is an amazing thing. Consider the hundreds killed every year in traffic accidents and think of the vast system of school bus routes. Not a single life lost.

This is a tribute to the drivers of these buses, who do a super job in protecting the safety of the children entrusted to their care.

Morrow county school district buses roll up more miles than the big majority of other districts in the state, and their record is amazingly good. We can think only of a couple of times when buses were involved in even minor accidents.

On the law of averages, the youngsters are probably far safer in the buses than they are in their own homes!

WE'RE ANXIOUS to find out whether the anonymous dog or the concrete layer emerges triumphant.

If ever a sidewalk were poured without a dog's tracks being impressed in it, the fact has yet to be recorded.

Thus, the new curb and portion of a crosswalk at Willow and Main were neatly poured and left to dry Tuesday. A barricade was placed around the fresh work. But shortly afterwards—inevitably—a dog's clearest footprints appeared in it.

The question is: Had the concrete set too firmly for them to be eradicated, or does Bowser leave his prints to preserve for posterity in his own version of Graumann's Chinese Theater?

Meanwhile, we'd nominate the concrete contractor as being the most likely candidate for World's Most Frustrated Person. He takes great pains to work out all the irregularities, get his job smoothed to a "T" and Presto! Along comes Bowser.

PROPERTY TAX FAX

QUESTION: Is there any adjustment made in property taxes for widows and please tell me what I must do to have my property put in my name only.

I was widowed last May and our Social Security checks are not really adequate and I have not been able to secure employment as yet.

ANSWER: No adjustments in taxes are made for widows, but you may be able to qualify for a Senior Citizens Residence Exemption or an exemption as a widow remaining unmarried of a war veteran. These are not automatic but must be filed for every year after January 1 and prior to April 1. For further information, contact your assessor.

If your property was owned by you and your husband as tenants by the entirety, then, upon your husband's death, you are the sole survivor and as a result the sole title holder. Take a copy of your husband's death certificate to the assessor and he can correct his records.

MEETING CALENDAR

- Monday, March 31—Chamber of Commerce, 12 noon
Wagon Wheel Dining Room
- Tuesday, April 1—AF & AM No. 69, 8 p.m.
Catholic Altar Society, 8 p.m.
LDS Relief Society, Legion Hall, 9:45 a.m.
Wranglers, Fair Dormitory
Golden Age Club, Episcopal Parish Hall, Potluck Dinner, 7 p.m.
Evening Group, Home Extension, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 2—Willow Lodge, IOOF Hall, 8 p.m.
Rhea Creek Extension Unit, Grange Hall, 10:30 a.m.
County Court, 10 a.m.
Jaycees, 8 p.m.
- Thursday, April 3—Holly Rebekah Lodge, 8 p.m., Lexington
Soroptimist Club, 12 noon, Wagon Wheel Dining Room, Business Meeting
- Friday, April 4—Sons Sons, Rebekah Lodge No. 33, IOOF Hall, 8 p.m.

TO THE EDITOR

What's Going On?

Dear Wes:
In your hour of travail, and no doubt an upset stomach, full-est sympathy goes out to you. Print shop gremlins are vicious mischief makers, we will admit. The little devils had me going, also. I always start with page one and read every line right on through, to and including the final page. But this week I was jumping all over the place to find your fine editorial page. Any other paper would have caused no concern—but my favorite family journal—that's different.

In trying to figure it all out I came to a brilliant conclusion. That darned four-page form somehow got reversed on the press bed. That is my considered opinion. Ah well, it was all there anyway, Wes. I didn't find any pages missing. It could have been worse, maybe. I do hope that this "juxtaposition" was discovered before you made the complete run.

My sincere wishes for a very rapid recovery.
You fellow sufferer, Art Crawford
282 Kingston Way
San Jose, Calif.

(Editor's Note: Only a few of our readers will understand what our "fellow sufferer" is talking about, since only a few received papers of the recent issue that were transposed inside. In making a "backup" run on the press the papers were turned to the wrong position with the result that pages 6 and 7 were where 2 and 3 should be, and 2 and 3 were in the back of the section. The "boo-boo" was caught after only about 100 were printed in the garbled condition. It's customary in such a case, to send the "bad" papers out of the area to lessen the ribbing that the staff will take. In this case, one of them went to a fellow journalist, Mr. Crawford, and he realized right away what had happened. Thanks for the sympathy, Art!)

Team Complimented

To the Editor:
We housed the Heppner basketball team during the A-2 basketball tournament. The boys were great—well-mannered, pleasant and very considerate—real nice to have around.
I know parents wonder sometimes about how their kids behave away from home (I know I do). We would like for them to know their kids were great. Parents and Heppner can be very proud.
Sincerely,
Mathew Fitzgerald, Mgr.
Pony Village Motor Lodge
North Bend, Ore.

Seeks Information

To the Editor:
I am trying to get in touch with someone who is related or

YOUR SENATOR REPORTS...

BY KEN JERNSTEDT, STATE SENATOR
18th District, Including Morrow county

Thirty Oregonians are alive today because of the increased traffic safety consciousness on the part of the state and its people; a consciousness that has come in the wake of a well-mapped out traffic safety program devised by the 1967 legislature.

Although Oregon's death rate, over the last two years, has been reduced by 30, even in the miles traveled, we cannot sit back and feel the job is completed. Realizing this, the legislature has once again turned its attention toward a killer that was responsible for 648 deaths last year—traffic accidents. We have done this by considering expansion of our present safety statutes. Some major pieces of

Pioneer Ponderings



By W. S. CAVERHILL

A Surprising Admission

According to a news item appearing in the Oregonian February 20 the proponents of the sales tax showed an amazing candor in their failure to provide property tax protection, an excerpt from the article follows.

"The Tax Commission could start collecting the sales tax July 1, 1969, but there would not be any property tax relief impact until tax bills came out in the fall of 1970.

"Property tax relief would average about \$6 per thousand of taxable property, but would vary widely depending on the taxing code district, assessment schedules and other impact factors. The proponents estimated the plan would reduce taxes on an average of 25 percent the first year, but this amount would shrink as school and government costs continue to climb."

Without apology we wish to add, "and eventually vanish."

Evans Welcome Son

Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Evans of Adams announce the birth of their first child, an 8 lb. baby boy, born Saturday, March 15, at St. Anthony hospital in Pendleton. The baby has been named Gibbon Lee. Mrs. Evans is the former Jan Hager of Heppner. Grandparents include Mr. and Mrs. James Hager and Mrs. Emma Hager, all of Heppner; Mrs. Eva Wright of Medford; Mr. and Mrs. Verne Evans of Heppner, and Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Evans of Condon.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

HEPPNER HIGH BASEBALL
Invitational Tournament at Pilot Rock.
Friday, 1:30 p.m., Saturday, 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Heppner, Burns, Nyssa and Pilot Rock teams.

SCHOOL ELECTION
Vote on 1969-70 School Budget Monday, April 7, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Heppner Elem.; Ione High; Lexington Distr. office; Boardman City Hall, and at A. C. Houghton in Irrigon

FOOD SALE
Saturday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
By St. Patrick's Altar Society Central Market.

PUBLIC CARD PARTY
Willows Grange Hall, Ione Sat., March 29, 8 p.m.
Pinochle and Pedra.
Donations to Ione Library Fund
Prizes and Refreshments. Public welcome.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
United Methodist Church, Heppner
Friday, April 4, starting at 12:30 p.m.
20-minute sessions
Public urged to attend

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

Reduce the Slaughter

An advertisement nationally distributed by an insurance company has come forth with a startling statement which should make every person pause and consider soberly.

Substance of the message is that of every 50 drivers a person meets on the highway, one is drunk. It is emphasized that this driver is not just drinking—but is drunk.

Other statistics have been advanced to point out that in upwards of 60 percent of the fatal accidents, drinking has been involved.

In a nation where 55,000 persons were killed in traffic accidents in 1968, this drinking driver situation is something which must be dealt with in the name of humanity.

Next time you go to a big football game, where perhaps 40,000 persons jam the stadium, or watch such a game on television, stop to contemplate. Look at the mass of people, healthy, happy; men, women and children; all have loved ones; all have the possibility of meaningful lives and capable of making contributions to the society in which they live.

Then imagine these lives, plus another 15,000, erased from existence. You can picture this mass of humanity scattered in grotesque positions, some maimed, some bleeding; some dead, some dying—all beside the wreckage of twisted vehicles. This was our national record in 1968.

What a terrific slaughter! What a gross waste!

We've long recognized that with the automobile and with the speeds we travel on modern highways we have developed a lethal situation. We've long heard drummed into our consciousness, "If you drink, don't drive."

Apparently the admonition has been of little effect, in view of the statistics. If alcohol is indeed a factor in 60% of the fatal accidents, this means that 33,000 of last year's deaths may be blamed, at least in part, to the drinking driver.

On the Fourth of July, 1960, a Stayton family was going to "Stay Home and Stay Safe" by attending the local fireworks celebration. The mother prepared a picnic dinner on the patio at their home. The father decided to take an eight-mile drive to Mehama to visit his elderly mother for a few minutes, and several of the children happily went along. Three of them never returned. Just out of Mehama, a drunk driver veered into the wrong lane of the North Santiam highway and into the path of their car. Later, a state policeman told us that he, driving ahead of the Stayton family, had witnessed the tragedy through his rear view mirror. The toll was four, since the intoxicated driver perished, too.

Such situations—and variations of them—happen hundreds of times on our highways each year. Maybe some of those who witness such tragedies learn a lesson that they don't forget, but others too quickly forget. The toll of the accident goes to join the thousands of others in our grim record book of traffic deaths as a rather commonplace event.

Thousands of drunk and drinking drivers almost literally get away with murder in this country.

One seldom reads of drunkenness being involved in a particular accident because it is too difficult to prove. The smashed car may be filled with beer bottles, or whiskey bottles, and the driver, if he survives, may be reeling around the scene. But a reporter who would say in his story that drinking was involved might find that his paper is sued for libel because nothing can be proved.

To this time there really hasn't been much deterrent to the drinking driver. A large percentage of those arrested for drunken driving, when cases strong enough to present come to court, are found innocent.

There are laws pending before the state legislature that would make it tougher on the drinking driver, and these steps must be taken if we're ever going to reduce this slaughter. There is a law that would fix the percentage of alcohol content in the blood at a lesser amount to consider the individual legally drunk. It has been far too high in Oregon to this time—15 of 1%. One proposal would set the legal limit at .10 of 1%.

Another law pending is that which would permit officers to stop motor vehicles for safety inspections. We heartily endorse that, too. This could afford officers a chance to pick up a few of the drunken drivers at the same time.

Some will talk of personal liberties, violation of an individual's rights, the delay that an inspection may cause, and similar objections. But think again of the 40,000 in the football stadium—wiped out—or the 500 or 600 every year in Oregon.

We're for any legislation that is going to help reduce the carnage on the highway. We're for Gov. Tom McCall's proposals on this subject of highway safety, and we hope that those legislators who represent our districts will join with others to pass such legislation.

A Tool to Work With

In the complete and neat new brochure packet that the Morrow County Port Commission has developed, the county has a fine new tool to work with in its efforts to attract industry and promote development.

The packet is just off the printing presses. Much of the work in developing it was done by Rupert Kennedy, coordinator for the commission, but many others had a hand in it, one agency especially being the Soil Conservation Service.

Nothing this complete nor elaborate has been prepared hitherto for the purpose of "blowing the horn" of Morrow county. This will certainly help implement development here, and all of those who assisted with the preparation of the brochure are to be complimented—just as the Port Commission is to be congratulated for its continuing good judgment in using public funds wisely as an investment in the county's future.

Mrs. Joe Baile and three children spent several days during spring vacation week visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Frank in Silverton, and with her sister and family in Portland, following their return from Coos Bay, where they were earlier in the week to see Heppner participate in the state A-2 basketball tournament.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Graham were hosts last week to their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Damon, and three children of Eugene. The visitors also traveled to La Grande, where they visited with Damon's mother.

For any kind of printing, call The Gazette-Times.

The Rhyming Philosopher SPRING

AS NOW THE MARCH WIND SNORTS A STORMY SNOOTFUL
WHILE HYACINTH AND TULIP GREET THE SUN,
AND BLOSSOMED TREES ARE BURGEONING AND FRUITFUL
TO HAIL THE LILAC'S BLUSH THAT SPRING'S BEGUN,
CAN PEGASUS STAND TETHERED TO THE WINTER
NOR HEED THE POET'S EFFERVESCENT FLUTE
TO SPEED THESE SOULFUL LYRICS TO THE PRINTER
THAT NEVER BE IT SAID THE MUSE IS MUTE?
FOR I HAVE HEARD THE SONG OF PHILOMELA
AND HARKENED TO THE CALL OF TRITON'S HORN,
SO WHO AM I TO PLAY THE DOUBLE-DEALER
AND NOT ANNOUNCE TO ALL THAT SPRING IS BORN?
SO COME YOU LADS AND LASSIES, GET YOUR SHOES ON,
THERE'S MUSIC FOR THE DANCE AND SONGS TO SING,
THERE'S HILLS TO ROAM AND MANY SEAS TO CRUISE ON,
FOR SPRING IS HERE, SO LET THE WELKIN RING!
GIVE OUT WITH SHOUTS TO NATURE'S NEW AWAKING,
OR, BETTER YET, LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE;
OR IF YOU FEEL RELUCTANCE OVERTAKING—
ROLL IN THE GRASS AND WHINNY LIKE A HORSE!

HARRY W. FLETCHER

NOTICE

PARKING METERS TO BE ENFORCED

During the severe winter weather that made driving and parking and servicing of the parking meters difficult, the meters were not strictly enforced.

Beginning Monday, March 31, the parking ordinance will be strictly enforced. A minimum fine of \$1 will be imposed if a ticket is paid within 24 hours. If it is not paid within that period, additional penalty will be imposed as stipulated in the ordinance.

HEPPNER CITY COUNCIL