

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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OTHER EDITORS SAY

BMCC Growing by Leaps and Bounds

(FROM HERMISTON HERALD)

Blue Mountain Community College is growing by leaps and bounds... from 154 full time students in 1962 to over 800 in 1969...

Wallace McCrae, president of BMCC, says of the 800 full-time enrollees, 631 students are from Umatilla and Morrow counties...

The school's operational budget for the coming fiscal year, beginning July 1, is \$525,937 which is higher than last year.

In talking with President McCrae and BMCC Board member Russell Dorran, we learn that last year the emphasis was on a \$1,500,000 building expansion program...

President McCrae demonstrates, by use of property assessment values and taxes, just exactly what the cost will be to property owners in the BMCC taxing district of Umatilla and Morrow counties...

Last year, by comparison, the estimated cost per \$1,000 of TCW was \$7.75.

The residents of the two counties of Morrow and Umatilla are certainly getting their money's worth from BMCC... it enables many students within traveling distance to live at home and get in two years of college...

The BMCC needs and deserves our continued support. —R.D.R.

Sentiment for Lake Aldrich

If it weren't for the fact that there is already a Umatilla county, a town of Umatilla, a Umatilla national forest, a river called Umatilla, a Umatilla Indian tribe...

Since there are so many things named "Umatilla," however, it is too commonplace in Eastern Oregon...

Judge John F. Kilkenny of Portland, and formerly of Morrow county, is among those interested in the matter.

One proposal is that the name of the lake be changed to "Lake Aldrich," in honor of Ed Aldrich, once editor of the East Oregonian...

It would seem fitting for his memory to rename the lake in his honor. The Oregonian states that Congressman Al Ullman is ready to introduce a bill in Congress to implement the change.

The name would have more significance than the present one in relation to the specific project. "Umatilla" is a time-honored name, but it has no particular connotation for the lake above John Day dam.

Time for Another Three Miles?

When the State Highway Department improved the stretch of some three miles of highway from Heppner towards Lexington several years ago—and did such a great job—it was understood that the plan was to continue improving similar short stretches until our state highways were in top condition.

This plan apparently was on a "funds available" basis but the local population fervently hoped that a short stretch of highway rebuilding could be accomplished each year.

Now this year, when the highway has been damaged considerably by frost, particularly four or five miles from Heppner, would be a good time to rebuild another three miles.

Morrow county has been assured a number of times in recent years that major work will continue, but it has been quite a while now, and our people have been good about holding their peace and biding their time.

One would think that the cost of improving the road, to repair winter damage, would be considerable. If this is the case, why not rebuild a portion now to economize in the long run?

The old saying is, "The squeaking wheel gets the grease." It would be good to think that this isn't required from the State Highway Department. We'd prefer to refer to another old saying as a reminder, "A promise is a promise."

Chaff and Chatter Wes Sherman

IT WAS GOOD that voters approved the school budget Monday. Now our people won't have to fret on that through the summer.

It occurred to us that Morrow county folks have a pretty good record in their support of the schools, even though we sometimes seem to think that it is almost customary to vote several times before passing a budget.

Actually, in the 11 years of the countywide administrative district, Morrow county voters have passed the budget on the first try in all but four of the years.

All but one of the initial defeats were in the rather stormy years that followed after the county district was formed in 1959. Like a newly married couple, it took quite a period for the union to become fully adjusted, and there were some hectic times.

Except for last year, 1968, the budget has passed at the first election for six consecutive years, and so some of the anxiety shown by school supporters may be rather unnecessary.

Like a newly married couple, it took quite a period for the union to become fully adjusted, and there were some hectic times. There are still some problems, but not nearly as bad as those first years.

WE'VE BEEN doing a little research on the budget elections in the county school district for the past 11 years in the G-T files, and discover some interesting information.

The budget has required three votes in just two years—1961 and 1968 (remembering that the first vote last year might have been considered an affirmative vote except for the challenged votes).

In two years, 1959 and 1963, two votes were required. In all others, it went over on the first try.

The largest number ever to cast votes in a school election here was in the second election of 1968 when 1,077 turned out to record a 497-610 vote against it.

But in the third and final election last year, the voters polled the highest affirmative margin for the budget in any of the 11 years, going 642 yes to 270 no, a victory spread of 372 votes.

The single election of 1965 brought the second highest winning margin, 325 votes (476 to 151), and the second election in 1963 was next with the yes votes exceeding the no votes by 324 (540 to 216).

The second election of 1959, when the district was formed, saw the affirmative vote exactly doubling the no vote, 458 to 229, a margin of 229.

The greatest negative vote polled in a school election here was the 697 no in a real year year of turmoil, 1963. This was the recall year, and but one of the school board resigned. Vote in the first election that year was 274 yes to the 697 no, a losing margin of 423.

But on the next try the budget was approved by the 324-vote margin. Narrowest winning margin was in 1962 when it passed by just 23 votes, 285 to 262.

Narrowest loss was in the second election of 1961 when it was down by 48 votes, 455 to 503. (The 1968 first election is considered as "no contest").

In all, the budget has been presented 17 times in the 11-year period. Its win-loss record is 11-5-1, the latter "no contest."

FEWEST NUMBER ever to turn out to vote in a school election during the period was in 1966 when 279 balloted (209 yes, 70 no).

The vote this year was tied for 13th place in the total turnout with 547 balloting, same as in 1962. Poorer turnouts were in 1966-279; 1967-361; and 1964-494. The first election last year was just slightly better at 569.

However, in the proportion of yes to no votes, the election this week was one of the better ones, going close to 2 1/2 to 1 in favor. In only three of the 17 elections did all precincts give yes majorities to the budget. Monday's election was one of the three.

Pioneer Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

The Technical Gap

We hear a lot about the "generation gap" and how to bridge it. The technological gap has more of an impact on our society and economy and is more difficult to define and remedy.

Several days of salmon fishing on the Columbia River near Bonanza were enjoyed last week by Mrs. Lyle (Neva) Matteson, Mrs. Celia Matteson and Delvin Matteson, who reported poor fishing luck and lots of fun.

Just to get the statistics on the record, here is the history of school elections for 11 years: 1959—(1) 273 yes, 497 no; (2) 458 yes, 229 no, 1960—571 yes, 424 no, 1961—(1) 349 yes, 519 no; (2) 455 yes, 503 no; (3) 605 yes, 498 no, 1962—285 yes, 262 no, 1963—(1) 274 yes, 697 no; (2) 540 yes, 216 no, 1964—327 yes, 167 no, 1965—476 yes, 151 no, 1966—209 yes, 70 no, 1967—227 yes, 134 no, 1968—(1) 286 yes, 283 no (election nullified); (2) 497 yes, 610 no; (3) 642 yes, 270 no, 1969—389 yes, 158 no.

Boardman tops the affirmative record on school budgets. Only twice in the 17 elections has a majority there opposed it. Lexington is the negative champion, having cast a no majority 12 of the 17 times. Ione and Hardman have voted no eight times. Irigon six times and Heppner only three times.

All in all, the Morrow county record, at least in the past six or seven years, must compare favorably with the rest of the state in these rather strenuous times. Some districts went to five votes last year before passing their budgets. It will be interesting to see what they do this year. Probably not very many of them, across Oregon, will pass budgets on the first try by a margin of better than 2 1/2 to 1.

THIS IS THE time of the year when spring activities start to accelerate. We want to call special attention to two events this week—the spring Civic League Rummage sale, and the P. E. program, sponsored by the GAA at the high school gym Friday night.

Out of Healthways magazine comes this little ditty that is fitting for the rummage sale: Suits and shirts and slacks and jackets.

Hats with feathers, skirts with plackets— Walking shoes and fiddle strings, Clocks and bracelets, matching rings. You'll probably find a lot of things.

From silverware to old bedsprings, To pique your tastes, your purses assail. When you attend a rummage sale.

—Russell M. Owen The rummage sale is Friday and Saturday at the old Tryco building. When you buy there, you are helping support the kindergarten—a very, very good cause.

As to the PE program, first held last year, we thought this was one of the best and most entertaining events of the year, and we are surely looking forward to it this year. The GAA charges a small admission to buy more physical education equipment, and much of that in use this year came from the admission of last year.

It is great to see the coordinated work of the youngsters in this program. If you saw it last year, chances are you will be back; if you didn't go last year, you'll want to make a point of attending this year, and you will be pleased at what you see. What these teachers are doing to train our children physically is something to behold.

ATTENTION of all cake bakers is called to the Wheat League cake baking recipe printed in the ad of Columbia Basin Electric this week as a public service. Wow, that recipe sounds delicious! It reminds me of that display of cakes at the recent Ione American Legion 50th anniversary program. You never saw such cakes as those auxiliary members baked! Everyone of them should get into the cake baking contest at the county fair in August.

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.

QUESTION:

I own five acres of land. Sometime ago it was changed from farm zone to residential zone. Pacific Power & Light has a power line easement of 100 feet by 500 feet, about two acres. I cannot build a house or plant trees on that land so why should I have to pay taxes on those two acres as long as it can't be used for residence? It's also a swamp in the winter time. I am being charged residential rates for these two acres. Is this fair taxation?

ANSWER:

In arriving at the value of your land, the Assessor's staff will be estimating its value in comparison with similar properties. Many recent subdivisions have powerline easements along the back portions of their lots and the purchasers plant a lawn and shrubs in this area. Anyone purchasing comparable land for residential purposes would have to plan land utilization to leave this easement as a so-called "open area."

If you check with your assessor you probably will find that this has been considered in arriving at the final estimate of value of your land. If he has overlooked some factor, he will be glad to make a correction or refer you to the Board of Equalization.

TO THE EDITOR

Jet Autos Next?

To the Editor: Always glad to get the paper, and when we are through with it, send it to the Old Fellows Home. They are glad to get it. They call us up once in a while.

Sometimes I wonder if we are progressing since 1843. The old pioneers paved the emigrant road to the west in the early days. Now the offsprings are burning it up.

I see in the paper they are worrying about birth control, but I think they have it licked, for now they have on the market a jet auto. It is so fast it accelerates from zero to 100 miles in five seconds and can stop on a dime automatically. Then a putty knife comes out, scrapes you off the windshield while you are still warm!

The price will be nothing down and balance in equal payments. I don't aim to peddle any hot air, and we don't need any breeze, for the skirts are plenty short.

Scott Brown 4934 N. E. Pacific Portland, Ore. 97213 (Ed Note: Scott Brown, one of Heppner's great old-timers, will be 90 years soon. Congratulations, Scott! It is good to hear from you again).

'No' on Sales Tax

To the Editor: There is no balanced relationship between the earning power and the paying power in a general sales tax. Those in low income brackets that are compelled to spend their entire income for a living for themselves and their family have no choice but to pay a tax on 100 per cent of their income, while those in greater opportunity pay a tax on only a portion of their income. In other words the richer pays the least percentage of a sales tax in accordance to the advantages he has in our country.

All the unfortunate, those on relief, the aged, the crippled, the blind, every child, and even the handicapped war veteran would be taxed on 100 per cent of what they have to live on. They would have no freedom of choice. They cannot count their small amount of money in their pocket with the idea of having that much to spend for necessities of life, because a general sales tax with its small voice says, "That is not all yours". No consideration is given to ability to pay.

There is no favorable connection whatever between property tax relief and this sales tax, because those who really need property tax relief would be paying a much greater tax in sales taxes than he now pays on property taxes. This has been proven in other states and the best authority we have in Oregon tells us it will be the same here. We need economy in our state, which we will not get if a sales tax is passed. It is a buyer's tax and subtracts its percentage from the buying power, which hurts business to that extent.

The sales tax group start out by appropriating \$300,000 for an election, and if it should carry it would mean additional office space in Salem, an addition of hundreds of extra state employees to handle the extra office work, besides the extra office auditors that would be required to travel over the state.

If ever a general sales tax is passed, the wolf will have his head in the door, and history in other states has shown it does not decrease, but steadily increases and spreads to other commodities like it has in our neighboring states, where it covers food, drugs and all necessities.

A vote for a sales tax is a vote to increase strikes, unrest, crime, demonstrations, mental disturbances and the ghettoes we hear so much about. The continued passing of sales taxes in our states is certain to bring about a reckoning day. We cannot put the burden of taxes on those least able to pay, taking food from their mouths and clothing from their backs.

YOUR SENATOR REPORTS...

BY KEN JERNSTEDT, STATE SENATOR

18th District, Including Morrow county

Do we have alcohol and drug problems in Oregon?

Ask the mother who watches her teenage son or daughter being committed to a mental hospital, because of LSD and she'll tell you that we have a problem.

Ask the statistician, who reports that half of all our highway deaths are the direct result of alcohol, and he'll tell you we have a problem.

Or ask this legislator, who is confronted with this social dilemma, this session, and I'll tell you we have a problem...

I'll tell you that the legislature, this session, is looking at a five-bill package that would initiate a comprehensive and coordinated program for the treatment of these two social problems. This program would include pretreatment, intensive care to cure the ill, and extended treatment out into the community through rehabilitation centers or halfway houses.

I'll tell you that the program would include the beefing-up of out-patient units in already existing community mental health clinics to provide for voluntary treatment of drug addicts. Already, this service is being provided for alcoholics.

I will tell you of the proposed establishment of a civil commitment procedure for drug addicts, either voluntary or by court order.

I will tell you of a program to give methadone, a synthetic narcotic, to long time users of hard narcotics to enable them to kick the habit, thus lessening the need to live a life of crime to support a costly habit. In other areas of legislative action, I can point out that the legislature is discussing a bill that would make driving under the influence of drugs the same offense as drunken driving. Another measure stiffens the penalty on drug pushers. Under the present law, both the sale and use of pot are felonies, but the sale of LSD is a misdemeanor. This is hoped to get at the source of the drugs, the pusher, rather than at the victim, the user.

Drug Dangers Told I will tell you, that \$133,000 is being pumped into an already existing program which finances four regional offices in Portland, Grants Pass, Eugene, and Ontario, that disperse information about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

If pushed further, this lawmaker will reveal that Oregon's Mental Health Division, in 1968, initiated the first program of its kind to increase the working knowledge of drug abuse. Known as the Western Institute on Drug Studies, this one-week program offers courses for people in such areas as law enforcement, education, mental health, treatment personnel, and other social service people.

I can also mention the special courses being placed in the curriculum of Oregon State University and several community colleges throughout the state, or of the state sponsored classes that were started this year in Grants Pass, Roseburg, and Coos Bay, through the Division of Continuing Education.

So you can see, your legislator can tell you a lot about this problem and list an impressive program to combat it. Yes, we do have an alcohol and drug problem in Oregon; we all know it. To merely talk about it is not enough. We are doing something... are you?

Our state officials could be contributing to the welfare of our state if part of their time was spent in plugging loopholes in our graduated income tax laws, which if administered fairly and properly would well support our state government. By planned maneuvering, several other bills have been attached to the proposed sales tax bill to make it more palatable, all of which can be nullified at a later date.

Every politician in Oregon knew what the salary was for the office he asked for when elected, and I feel they should not be leaders in spiraling inflation by sponsoring exorbitant pay raises. As a citizen and taxpayer in Oregon, may I urge you to vote "NO" on the sugar-coated sales tax bill on June 3, and keep this unreasonable creeping sneaky beast out of our state.

Sincerely, C. H. Brooks Langlois, Ore. 97450

The Rhyming Philosopher GRATIFICATION

BECAUSE OF A MYTHICAL, LONG-CHERISHED VIEW, YOU LIVE FOR THE DAY YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO; NO JOB TO ENSLAVE YOU, NO TIME-CLOCK TO PUNCH, NO FIXED HOUR FOR BREAKFAST OR DINNER OR LUNCH.

IMAGINE HOW WONDERFUL LIFE WILL THEN BE, TO SIT BACK AND KNOW THAT AT LAST YOU ARE FREE. ANNOUNCE TO THE WORLD YOU'RE RETIRED AND FED UP. IGNORE THE ALARM — YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET UP.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURRY, THERE'S NO PLACE TO GO, IT'S ALWAYS MANANA, LIKE OLD MEXICO. SINCE TIME HAS NO MEANING YOU STAY UNEMPLOYED; WITH NOTHING TO DO — THERE'S NO TASK TO AVOID.

BUT SOON COMES THE DAY WHEN THIS CONCEPT EXPIRES. WHICH HAPPENS TO ANY MAN WHEN HE RETIRES. YOU CUT YOURSELF OFF FROM THE CURRENT EVENT, WHICH MAKES YOU FEEL USELESS, DISCARDED AND SPENT.

SO HERE'S THE SOLUTION: THERE ISN'T MUCH FUN IN JUST DOING NOTHING, NO WORK TO BE DONE; SO FIND LOTS OF WORK—THERE'S JOY IN JUST VIEWING IT— THE MAXIMUM PLEASURE IS SIMPLY NOT DOING IT!

HARRY W. FLETCHER

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

HEPPNER HIGH BASEBALL Heppner at Madras, Saturday, April 12 Track Meet — Grant Union, here, on Sat., April 12, 1 p.m.

BAND CARNIVAL Saturday, April 19, Fair Pavilion Dinner, 5 to 7 p.m., booths, 6:30-10:00 p.m., dance 10-1:00

RHEA PEEK GRANGE Friday, April 11, potluck dinner, 6:30 p.m. Program, slides of Europe by Dick Wilkinson, 7:30 p.m.

GOLF CLUB WORK DAY Sunday, April 13, before and after church Willow Creek Country Club Free lunch! New members invited

IONE PTA PROGRAM Friday, April 11, 8 p.m., School Cafeteria Humorous One-Act Play Special Musical Entertainment Help PTA Scholarship Fund

SCHOOL PE PROGRAM Friday, April 11, 7:00 p.m. Heppner High Gymnasium Big variety of gymnastics, grade and high school classes. Band music Adm., \$1 adults, 50c, students

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