

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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A Point to Ponder

Lowell Chally brings up a point in a letter to the editor elsewhere on this page that merits more study and deliberation.

This is in reference to the division of the state into 14 districts for planning and administration under Governor Tom McCall's "Partnership for the Future" program. Morrow county is a part of district 12, together with Umatilla, Gilliam, Wheeler and Grant counties.

In setting up the districts last year, Gov. McCall pointed out the regional differences in the state and emphasized a need to decentralize state services to facilitate problem solving at the local level.

At the time of formation of the districts, the governor said, "Until now, there has been no way of coordinating state agency plans with local government plans—of producing a single, statewide, and state district plan which would truly be a comprehensive plan for Oregon's future, reflecting a full partnership in planning."

He said that 23 state agencies had subdivided Oregon into 51 different patterns of sub-state districts for planning and administration, indicating that this needed correction.

"Gradually, it has become more and more difficult for any one agency to coordinate its efforts with others—more difficult for local communities to determine the total impact of all state programs on their own region of Oregon," he said.

"It is hoped," he added, "that each region of the state will be able to participate in determining its needs and the goals of those state programs which affect its daily life."

Thus, the basis for the formation of the districts seems sound and logical, but are there some weaknesses in the system that might react against the less-populated areas as Mr. Chally suggests? Probably far too little local attention has been given to the governor's district plan by local residents who should be concerned. Too many of us know too little about it. Mr. Chally, in his capacity as welfare administrator, is one of those involved in the district organization.

As we understand it, the district's leadership will have much to do with the securing of federal and state funds for local programs. This, in turn, has considerable influence and effect on local government.

Is it possible, under this plan, that in a district such as ours the big county (Umatilla, with 2-to-1 population advantage over the total of the remaining counties) would become dominant and everything gravitate to its benefit? Could it be, as Mr. Chally further suggests, that in the end, Umatilla might engulf the other counties—that the small towns may consequently become ghost towns? Are there safeguards built in to prevent this? We don't know the answers. We'd like to know.

It is true that a larger population center acts as almost an irresistible magnet, even perhaps without consciously trying to draw from its satellites, just because of the size.

But folks in the rural areas like their lives the way they are. They give up advantages of city living because they like the contrasting advantages of the rural life. They like to live close to their government; they like to be able to walk into a county office and say, "My road needs fixing," or "My taxes are too high."

In this sense, then, can Gov. McCall's program of decentralization from the state level impose a new and tougher centralization at the district level? Maybe the administration from the state capital would offer more equality and impartiality to the small county than would the district of which that county is a part, if the biggest county in the district holds the power control.

We believe rural Americans should zealously guard what remaining local control they have in government. Consolidations, such as of county governments, may further efficiency in some respects, but it may come at too high a price. Right at the moment there is more talk of reapportioning again, which once more would expand the second Congressional district. This, we understand, is mandatory. When it comes, each individual in the district will have his voice lessened that much more. And there is nothing that he can do or say to check this tide! The last foothold is at the local level.

These state administrative districts were established, not by vote, but by executive order. There is no doubt that the plan was motivated with the best interests of the state and its people in mind, but there may be areas where it may not work so well in practice as it would seem to seek in principle.

Mr. Chally gives the example of Blue Mountain College on the dominance of the big county over the smaller neighbor, and he lists the disparity of cost of education for students in the different counties. This must be acknowledged, but as he points out, this does not reflect against the worth of the college, which we believe has been one of the great accomplishments of the area during the past 10 years.

The college does give the travel allowance to Morrow county students to help make up for the cost disparity. Also, there is no rule that would limit the number of students from Morrow going to BMCC. If every senior in Morrow county high schools went there next year, the college would take them and the tax would be the same. In other words, the opportunity is there for the taking.

It must be noted, too, that BMCC's worth extends far beyond the actual student program on campus. Its evening courses and extension program in Morrow county are equivalent to those in Umatilla county. The college has genuinely attempted to step in whenever community needs were pointed out, here as in Umatilla county.

We believe that BMCC—and its administration and directors—has done an admirable job in serving the small county in its district, despite the difference in student enrollment, or maybe, partly, because of it. We have always had representation on the board, we have been kept well informed—both on college program and finances, and we see no attempt by Umatilla to dominate Morrow insofar as BMCC is concerned.

While on the tax average it costs more for Morrow to send a student to Blue Mountain, on a one-to-one basis it does not. In other words, taxpaying parents in Morrow county whose son goes there pays no more than comparable parents in Umatilla county. The percentage of tax per true cash value is the same in each county.

We just hope that as much attention is given to being fair and equitable on the state administrative district plan as is being given in the Blue Mountain college district.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

JOHNNY CARSON, on a recent "Tonight Show, told how he was in trouble for just incidentally speaking the international distress signal, which is positively verboten on radio or television unless there is an actual emergency. The forbidden word is "Mayday."

In telling about the incident, he couldn't even use the word to explain to his audience why a portion of his speech was censored in a preceding program, so that his lips were moving but nothing came out.

Well, sir, newspapers have their "no-no's" too.

There are some words that are forbidden in the paper, and we don't mean the indecent or profane. Unlike Johnny Carson, we can shout them as loud as we want—or you can—but we can't print them.

One such nasty, terrible, awful word is "Bingo."

If we use that word, says the U. S. Post Office Department, our paper is not acceptable in the mails.

Quote from "The Law vs. Lotteries," United States Post Office Department, August 1, 1960: "Announcements of 'bingo' games sometimes say nothing more than 'Games,' or 'Party,' or 'Entertainment,' or some other word or designation—for example, a dollar sign—which is understood by the reader to give notice that the games of chance will be played, at the time and place noted. Any of these references would be nonmailable."

Now, we've never been quite able to understand this—and bear in mind that we aren't supposed to mention raffles, or any other game of chance.

For, it doesn't seem quite cricket to bar publicizing of a church raffle of a quilt to benefit home or foreign missions when it is quite all right, if you wish, to devote an entire paper to a horse race where a person could lose a fortune on one race merely by plunking down his money at the betting window.

But we would not unduly belittle the regulation. Maybe there are insidious abuses stemming from these titillating games of chance that haven't occurred to us. The innocent little old nickel pinball game that used to be in every confectionery store in days of yore grew up to be one of the big-

gest pawns of racketeering and gangsterism in this country's history.

BY THE WAY, Mrs. Weatherford, we had to make a few changes in your band carnival story. We hope you understand. (The P. O. sleuths might have sent us to prison for 40 years).

CONGRATULATIONS to Jerry Hollomon, who, with the two other barbers—Dick Robison and Lyle Jensen, has made this a three barbershop town again!

Jerry has bright new quarters in his location next to Harris Driveway and he is going to have his grand opening Saturday. Some lucky ones will get free haircuts during the day.

Wouldn't this be an ideal day for all hippies to change their hair styles and pay him a visit?

Three cheers for the crewcut! (And from the balcony comes the familiar echo, "You old square.")

IT IS a bit terrifying to listen to the tale of those caught in the sudden dust storm on Butter Creek Saturday afternoon. They were driving along, and all of a sudden they were engulfed.

When one car was forced to stop, a total of five vehicles had a chain reaction crash (lucky the highway doesn't have as much traffic as a freeway).

But none of those involved was seriously hurt, thank heavens.

Their rigorous experience can do some good by serving as a lesson for the rest of us who haven't encountered a dust storm problem of this severity.

It seems that the best advice—when caught in such a storm—is to pull off the highway and keep the roadway clear.—This is provided you can find your way off the highway. It was so thick out there the other day that they probably couldn't see to do that.

Also, it probably would be a good idea to get out of the car and run into the field or away from the road.

Those who have been through such storms say that posted flares don't even do the job.

Land sakes! A fellow might rig up a big vacuum device and pull himself a farm out of the air pretty cheap.

MEETING CALENDAR

Monday, April 21—
School Board Meeting, Lexington District Office, 7:30 p.m.
Ruth Assembly No. 50, Order of Rainbow for Girls, Masonic Hall, 7 p.m.
Civic League, Kindergarten Room, 8 p.m.
Morrow County Fair Board, Fair Dormitory, 8 p.m.
Chamber of Commerce, Wagon Wheel Dining Room, 12 noon
Heppner Neighborhood Center Advisory Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22—
Degree of Honor, Episcopal Parish hall, 8 p.m.
LDS Relief Society, Legion hall, 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday, April 23—
Ione Garden Club, Blue Mountain District Meeting, Willows

Grange hall, Ione
Royal Arch Masons, Chapter 26, Masonic hall, 8 p.m.
Willow Lodge, IOOF hall, 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 26—
Morrow County Gem and Mineral Society, McMurry Building, 7:30 p.m.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS
Heppner High School and Elementary School
For Week of April 21-25
Monday, April 21—Mor, Jell-O salad, rolls, pudding, milk.
Tuesday, April 22—Spanish rice, lettuce wedges, rolls, brownies and applesauce, milk.
Wednesday, April 23—Hamburger gravy and potatoes, spinach, rolls, apricots, milk.
Thursday, April 24—Baked ham, sweet potatoes, rolls, carrot and celery sticks, peach cobbler, milk.
Friday, April 25—Vegetable beef soup, peanut butter sandwiches, cole slaw, cake with topping.

Cutters Like Us; We Like Them!

If one will notice from year to year, the annual Spring Meet and Cow Cutting event, sponsored by the Wranglers, sets new records in participation almost annually.

Unique is the fact that a majority of the contestants are from out of the immediate area, and one may wonder why they travel all the way to Heppner to take part.

Gene Pierce of the Wranglers has an obvious answer, "They like to come here."

This makes it sort of a mutual admiration society. They like to come, and we surely like to have them.

Cow cutting is the major hobby with some of the contestants. They have considerable sums invested in fine horses, trailers in which to haul them, and campers.

In this year's field that will bring participants from throughout the Northwest will be some who have never been to Heppner before. They will find that the cutting contest is a truly western event, in a truly western town with a truly western atmosphere, and with people that show truly western friendliness.

This is what causes the field to expand each year. Already the Cow Cutting contest is listed on Oregon's Events Calendar, and it has a more promising future.

These folks aren't interested in a pseudo western flavor, a phoney "pod'ner" accent, or any other sort of assumed hokus pokus to capitalize on the western theme. They like the real western folks. They enjoy going to the band carnival, which happily falls at the same time, and rubbing elbows casually and informally with our good people.

In coming here and participating in such an event as this, they help Heppner and the county perpetuate its unique true western quality.

The Chamber of Commerce the other day received a letter from a person who was seeking to route a touring caravan into areas of true western flavor and off the beaten path. He had heard of Heppner as a likely place and wrote to find out what events are being held here so that he might time the schedule to fit.

Although the timing may not be right to route the caravan here, the man was surely directed to the right place. Those who are tired of the over-publicized and over-glamorized places, who like to see some new country and to meet real friendly people, can find Morrow county very much to their liking.

And just Saturday a man from the Willamette Valley, just out of Portland, dropped into say that he and his wife think this is a great place and would like to come here to retire. This is from some folks who have no greater connection with Heppner than that they like it.

Our town and area are glad to pay host to the cow cutters again this year, and we hope each comes back for many years to come. There is a big warm welcome here for people with the true western spirit.

TO THE EDITOR

Demise Ahead?

To the Editor:
Your recent reprint of an article from the Hermiston Herald (April 10, 1969) concerning the growth of Blue Mountain Community College interests me. It is stated there are 631 students from Umatilla and Morrow counties. What not stated was the percentage. A call to BMCC revealed that as of the fall term 61 full time students were from Morrow county. This is fine, as it approximates the population ratio of 1 to 10. However, the assessment is 1 to 5 to property owners in the BMCC taxing district of Morrow and Umatilla counties.

It would appear then that Morrow county is carrying a very disproportionate share (despite being included in a transportation allowance as an outlying district) and actually subsidizing the additional education of Umatilla county residents. The Morrow county statement of taxes for 1968-69 lists \$95,936.21 for the Blue Mountain Education District. This amounts to \$1572.73 per student from Morrow county. For those from Umatilla county it is less than half. What will it be in coming years with the expansion in curriculum, staff and buildings at BMCC?

This in no way is intended as a criticism of the board members, the administration or the faculty itself. Perhaps the advantages, and there are many, of having the college available to persons in the area who would not otherwise be benefited simply outweigh the disadvantages.

Somewhat along this same line, and again whether advantageous or not, the public should remain alert to the 14 districts established in the state by executive order in July 1968 to facilitate governmental administration. Of these, Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler and Grant counties comprise Area 12. Umatilla alone by more than 2 to 1, outnumbered the combined population of the other four counties. Almost by that potency in itself services and facilities are increasingly magnetized toward Pendleton whether along the lines of government operations, manufacturing, medical care or what.

It is quite conceivable that Pendleton may become the operable county seat for Area 12 as well as emanating virtually all federal and state services. Perhaps this is what the citizenry needs and wants. Perhaps not. Perhaps this foretells the demise of the outlying county governments. Perhaps not. Perhaps this means the slow death of Heppner, Condon, Fossil and Canyon City. Perhaps not. Perhaps there will be an unbalanced tax burden. Perhaps not. And perhaps there will be a loss of control of the schools. And perhaps not. In any event it behooves us to be thinking of this possibility now.

Respectfully yours,
Lowell Chally
Heppner, Oregon

Cake Delicious

To the Editor:
I am sorry I am not eligible to enter the 1969 Cake Baking Contest.

I baked the Devil's Food Cake recipe that you printed for the Oregon Wheat League contest in the Columbia Basin Electric advertisement, and it was delicious! In fact, the whole family thought so.

Grandson Nolan Franks' remark, "Gramie, this is so good I don't need a glass of water!" Just thought you would like to know I do read your paper.

Sincerely,
Your sister-in-law from the Valley,
Mrs. Harry Sherman, Jr.
1429 Rosearden Drive
Forest Grove, Oregon 97116

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Angell and family traveled to Prineville over the past week-end where they spent time visiting with Angell's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Mark O'Kelly.

YOUR SENATOR REPORTS...

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

"Warning, breathing may be hazardous to your health."

It would hardly exaggerate the scientist's findings to suggest that metropolitan areas, throughout our country, place this warning on their city limit signs in the same manner cigarette manufacturers are now required to do on a package of cigarettes.

Air pollution is not a new phenomenon or a by-product of the industrial revolution, as many would like to think. Actually, pollution has preceded man himself. Nature is a tremendous polluter with its sand storms, forest fires, volcanic eruptions, hydrocarbons emitted by trees, and other gases from decaying matter. But nature was always able to compensate for its pollution.

Now we find another polluter... man. Once he learned to master fire, create his urban settlements and develop an organized culture, he soon learned to surpass the pollution efforts of nature. He soon acquired the ability to corrupt his environment much faster than nature's almost boundless ability to correct this unbalance.

Time Running Out
For this reason time is running out for large population

Pioneer Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

A Bell Tolls Again

One of the incidents in the Eisenhower funeral ceremony that brought back memories of other years and other places was the tolling of the Cathedral bell. It has been a long time since I have heard the voice of a bell at a funeral service, yet it was the established practice in many interior towns for the sexton to toll out the years of the departed. There is something about the sound of a bell in situations of joy or sorrow, that no assortment of sirens, or whistles can equal. They are the noise makers. There is music in bells. There was nothing that could break the melancholy that surrounded an isolated ranch home like the tinkle of a cowbell on the head of the herd as they moved in from the pasture at milking time.

We have taken steps to streamline the Sanitary Authority by providing hearing officers. Another Senate measure is in the House that would allow the Authority to measure and sample emissions in order that more exact information can be acquired for control. There is also Senate Bill 496 which spells out in definite terms the allowance of reduction in emission in order to receive a tax break.

Although we are a long way from insuring future generation of fresh air, we are taking major steps to check pollution of our air. We have the laws to check the problem, all we need is the technology to carry out what the statutes provides. Unfortunately, this will take time.

Students Superb
To the Editor:
I must congratulate the P. E. instructors and students for the very fine performance at the High School Gymnasium last Friday night.

So many and varied were the acts and gymnastic feats, and so many students participating. Everyone performed with such skill and enthusiasm that one felt like they were enjoying performing as much as I enjoyed watching them.

I believe everyone in attendance felt as I did that the students' performances were superb, and I am looking forward to next year's program.
Herman Green

Reunion Slated

To the Editor:
Crook County High School of Prineville is planning a reunion for August 2, 1969. All who attended school in the classes of 1929 through 1939 are invited to attend, whether a graduate or not. For further information and a pre-registration form please write Charles W. Hutchinson, P. O. Box 596, Prineville, Oregon 97754, or phone 447-7289 as early as possible.

Sincerely,
Charles W. Hutchinson
General Chairman

centers. Even in Oregon, scientists are forecasting a bleak future for the Willamette Valley. Many have claimed that the only thing that stands between Willamette Valley with fresh air and a virtual sewer-trough, is the lack of people. For their claim, it is people with their use of cars, their household heating and trash burning that causes the greatest portion of air pollution, and not industry. According to our latest figures, industry in Oregon contributes less than 25% to our pollution problems.

Although we have defined the major causes of air pollution, we are still unable to resolve the problems. This is due to our lack of technology and control. Unlike water pollution, which is confined by the banks of the streams, air pollution has no boundaries. It has no boundaries because it is at the mercy of the atmospheric changes, which can either disperse the emissions, or collect them together from several sources to cause a hazardous condition.

Since 1938 we have been combatting the problem through the creating of the State Sanitary Authority. In 1951, Oregon was the first state in the Union to pass an anti-pollution law. And again in 1959, 1961, 1965, and 1967 the lawmakers bolstered the program with more money and more authority. The 1967 program emphasizes local control and encourages industries, through tax-breaks, to clean up their pollution. The program also provides money to sponsor research at Oregon State University to find a solution to the problem.

Bill For Reaching

Now again, this session the Oregon Legislature is firming-up Oregon's program. The most far reaching bill is Senate Bill 165, which tightens the allowances for burning material. The bill would remove the exemptions that are presently allowed by the statutes. These would include: agriculture, residence, outdoor fires used by residence, land clearing operation, and incinerators. Under this bill, burning can only take place with the approval of the Sanitary Authority.

A similar bill is in the House, although it is not as far reaching.

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COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

HEPPNER HIGH BASEBALL
Heppner at Sherman County High, Saturday, April 19, 10:00 a.m.
Track Meet — Burns Invitational, there, Saturday, April 19
Heppner Invitational, here, Saturday, April 26

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

POMONA GRANGE
Lexington Grange Hall
Saturday, April 26, 10:30 a.m.
Dinner at noon
Guest speaker, Allen P. Wheeler, state grange master

SPRING CARD PARTY
Monday, April 28, 8 p.m.
St. Patrick's Parish hall
Dessert, bridge and pinochle
Tickets, \$1.00 each. Everyone invited

ANNUAL COW CUTTING
Heppner Wrangler's Spring Meet
Saturday and Sunday, April 19 and 20
Morrow County Fairgrounds
Covered arena
No admission charge

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Heppner

The Rhyming Philosopher

OWNERSHIP
THE COWBOY SAT FLUMPED BY THE EMPTY CORRAL
WITH A FAR-AWAY LOOK IN HIS EYE;
THE HORSE BY HIS SIDE WAS HIS ONLY OLD PAL,
FOR THE REST OF THE GANG SAID, "GOODBYE."
FROM NINE IN THE MORNING 'TIL SHARP FOUR O'CLOCK
ALL THE RANCH HANDS HAD WORKED WITH A WILL;
THEN THEY RATTLED RIGHT OFF FROM THE RANGE AND
THE STOCK
TO THE COUNTRY CLUB WAY DOWN THE HILL.
THE UNION GOT THEM THE THIRTY-HOUR WEEK—
EACH FRIDAY THEY'RE OFF IN A TRICE
FOR A WEEK-END OF PLEASURE AND GOLF DOWN THE
CREEK,
INTERCEPTED, WITH POKER AND DICE.
THIS COWBOY STILL RIDES ALL ALONE ON THE RANGE,
AND WORKS 'TIL HE'S BLUE IN THE FACE.
THE REASON THEY LEFT HIM BEHIND ISN'T STRANGE—
HE'S THE SUCKER WHO OWNS THE DARN PLACE!
HARRY W. FLETCHER