

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Counties Debate District Plan

After reading the editorial page of The Gazette-Times two weeks ago, Judge Paul Jones has brought out information to indicate some of the thinking of county officials on the administrative districts plan for the state as proposed by Governor McCall.

We had not realized that officials of eastern Oregon counties had given so much attention to this matter and present excerpts from the materials submitted by the judge to bring the public here more up-to-date.

In a letter dated April 4, Judge Jones wrote to Gov. McCall in response to a request for an evaluation of the proposed plan.

Excerpts from the letter:
"The geographical area (of district 12, of which Morrow county is a part) is quite large. When the meeting of the group was held here, the Grant County people came 135 miles; Wheeler County 70; Umatilla County 70; and Gilliam County about 45 miles.

"I agree that the district may prove to be a very valuable tool in the establishment of priority areas for bloc grants, mental health, law enforcement, etc.

"It is imperative that in the operation of these districts safeguards be established which will prevent the formation of ill will and petty jealousies in the district.

"May I cite an example. The accompanying list of the newly created 'CAMPS' committee illustrates my point. It is true that many of those underlined are State people. Nevertheless, the Umatilla County residents far outnumber the total of the other four counties. I do not make the statement to raise an issue, but only to point out that it leaves the door wide open for such an accusation.

"May I also point out on the attached district map that Heppner is very close to the geographical center. If the district is to be permanent I would urge that consideration be given to placement of some of the State offices in this and other counties of the district.

"I would like to recommend that additional time be given to the evaluation of the district. It is my belief that we should proceed slowly in order to prevent some of the possible results that I have mentioned."

The Baker county court wrote to Judge Jones on April 7, stating that it is "very much concerned with Governor McCall's action in setting up the State Administrative Districts."

It continued, "The community leaders requested a meeting with Gov. McCall to discuss with him some of the reasons why we were opposed to his districting plan. Governor McCall was in Baker on September 15, 1968, and we presented our objections to him. We asked the Governor to take this matter to the Legislature. We still feel that districting of the State is a proper function for that branch of the government."

In a letter to the governor, dated April 3, 1969, the Baker county court said, "We have not changed our position from that which was stated to you on September 15, 1968. . . . In substance, our position is still that such districting is a threat to local government, removing power from the people, and that the legislature is the proper body to cope with the matter.

"We still believe that you should request legislation as contemplated by ORS 184.020, which requires the submission of recommendations with respect to executive and legislative requirements for the improvement of . . . administrative conditions, and then after the bill or bills were introduced, the people all over the state could have their full say in committee hearings, and make up their minds after public debate."

At the Sept. 15, 1968, meeting in Baker, some of the points brought out by Judge Lloyd Rea to Gov. McCall were: "We do not feel that you have the constitutional and statutory power to subdivide the state into fourteen administrative districts, or any other number for that matter. . . .

"We feel that it is of the utmost importance, when the trend is to centralize decision-making in Washington, D. C., and in Salem, that every effort be put forth to maintain and promote strong local government. While it is true that the state furnishes many necessary services to the people, lots of these are presently administered on a county basis. . . .

"As you have so aptly pointed out in the executive order, 'These districts do not meet every specific need.' It would be immediately apparent that while districts for timber-oriented endeavors might somewhat coincide with certain game conservation problems, these areas would be entirely different from local and agricultural districts where irrigation, flood control, and water pollution would be problems. Many, many examples of the need for districts of different shapes and sizes can be given. . . .

"While you and your planning committee have made the value judgement that these districts will reduce the expense to the taxpayers, we here in Baker county think that this expenditure would be most expensive. . . .

And, judging by news stories and editorials in the Blue Mountain Eagle of John Day, Grant County has been concerned and active in regard to the administrative district proposal for some time.

Last week's Eagle reprinted parts of Lowell Chally's letter to the G-T and our consequent editorial.

Editor John Moreau, who has previously commented at times unfavorably on the districts, adds this note on the favorable side:

"The governor and his aides argue persuasively on behalf of his plan in one big respect. Almost every federal program first involves a 'planning grant' allocated on the basis of population. This sum, usually modest, is just too thin to cover adequate planning in sparsely settled counties.

"It makes much more sense, the McCall-men argue, to organize groups of counties and, with the greater funds available, attempt to solve problems on a regional basis. Realignment of state administrative patterns follows roughly the same thesis."

Like Giles French, Moro, whose comments were reported in this column last week, Moreau comments on the recent Oregonian editorial, "Counties Out of Date."

Moreau replies: "This could be true in populous areas of Western Oregon, but not here. The county is a natural service vehicle for sparsely settled areas of Oregon — areas like our own where incorporated municipalities are just too small to tackle programs alone.

"We don't think adequate attention has been paid to

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

SWITCH to daylight time seems to have been accomplished with a minimum of inconvenience this year. Few complaints were heard and also very few wisecracks.

But the first week day of daylight time — Monday — brought a minimum of the extra light, what with the rain storm and dark clouds. Probably most ranchers would rather have the rain than the longer evenings anyway.

We had planned to take pictures of the new Columbia Basin building — and did — on Monday afternoon but were hard put to find a time that we could snap the photos without getting drenched.

However, in doing so, we gained a distinction — that of being the first person (and maybe the last) to tour the new building in our stocking feet.

Rock is yet to be applied to the area around the new building (or was as of Monday), and thus, when it rains as it did Monday, there is quite a bit of mud. We got a goodly portion on our shoes.

When Harley extended the invitation to take a tour of the new building, we couldn't see getting that mud all over the bright new floors and so left the shoes outside.

It is a mighty nice building, and the design is truly functional. We'll have more on that at a later time.

YOU'D think that when the switch is made to daylight time, spring should be here, and all the elements should point to this fact. But what that stuff looming down for a while Tuesday? Snow! A person can hardly believe it, when it is almost time for May Day.

BUT SPRING IS on the way. We know it. One way we can tell is when people start bringing little curios to the newspaper office. Last week it was a three-inch egg laid by a hen of Robert Pogue, Sr.

This week it is a black widow spider, brought in by John Brandenburg. This menacing-looking female — about 1 1/2 inches long with legs extended — is just about two feet away watching this being written. She's just waiting for one of our "friends" to come along and screw the lid off the glass jar in which she is a prisoner. Then she'd get even!

But John figures that there may be a lot of black widows out this spring. This is the second one he has found this spring, both females. He found No. 2 on the curtain in his bedroom.

John theorizes that the hard winter might have something to do with the black widows being on the prowl, since it may have killed off small insects on which they might feed, and they are out in search of food.

He suggests that folks might inspect old buildings where they may be nesting in the mating season and advise children, particularly to beware of them. The female is easily identifiable because of the small red "hour-glass" on the underside of its body.

Black widow bites can be fatal, but we'd guess that this would be a rare thing. However, a bite could surely make a person mighty uncomfortable.

When we lived in Nyssa years ago, we found that black widows were in abundance there. You could find one in your garage any time and paid little attention to them. But they aren't desirable pets, either.

Probably most folks in these parts have seen plenty of black widows, but if you haven't and want a look, come on in! But do it before she hatches a bunch of tiny ones and they crawl out through the vent holes.

SO YOU NEVER know what spring may bring to a newspaper office. Next week someone might come in with a paper sack containing a rattlesnake. Someone did bring in a rattlesnake once, but not in a paper sack, fortunately. They had us looking for a chandelier to climb as it was! This is one thing that they don't teach you in J-school — that you are going to get a lot of "gifts" each springtime.

DON'T KNOW that you can blame this on spring, but the Rev. Rudolph Mensch couldn't believe his eyes the other day. He looked at his electric clock and it said 2:30. He looked 15 minutes later and it said 2:15.

Then he discovered that the thing was running backwards! He stopped the clock, started it again, and it took off running clockwise, just as all good clocks should.

Rev. Mensch is still puzzled

cally to — as the PR men like to call it — the 'big picture.' Those who believe in local initiative and local control will have to be ever on guard to preserve it.

"We don't happen to think that just because something is bigger it is better."

—So! There are caution signs flying all over Eastern Oregon on this district plan. We concur with Judge Jones. The plan needs more evaluation and more study. More people should become concerned and give this matter thoughtful consideration.

If this is not done, perhaps some day John Citizen might discover that his county seat is suddenly 100 miles away. Then he might well stand around and ask in his bewilderment:

"What happened?"

WE OFTEN get involved in discussions with folks about good English, spelling and so on. Just today we were visiting with Jane Rawlins about grammatical errors and the fact that one often finds some bad error in a respected publication. We always try to keep our paper as grammatically "clean" as possible, but some declare that it is the sense, or the results, that counts.

Maybe it is like this story: A newly hired traveling salesman wrote his first report to the home office. It stunned the brass in the sales department because it was obvious the new man was almost completely illiterate. Here is what he wrote:

"Dere Bos—
"I seen this outfit which ain't never bot a dime worth of nutthin from us and I sole them a couple hunner thousand dollars of guds. I am now goin to Chicawgo."

Before the illiterate could be given the old heave-ho by the sales manager, this letter came from Chicago.

"I cum hear and sole them a half a millyun."
Fearful if he did, and fearful if he didn't fire the illiterate, the sales manager dumped the problem in the lap of the president.

The following morning the ivory tower members were amazed to see the two letters posted on the bulletin board . . . and his memo from the president above:

"We ben spending two much time trying to spel insted of trying to sel. Let's watch thoes saills. I want everybody shud read these letters from Gooch, who is on the rode doing a grate job for us, and you shud go out and do like he done."

MEETING CALENDAR

Monday, May 5—
Chamber of Commerce, 12 noon,
Wagon Wheel Dining Room
South Morrow Ministerial Association, 1 p.m.
City Council, City Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Ruth Assembly No. 50, Order of Rainbow for Girls, Masonic Hall, 7 p.m.
American Legion and Auxiliary, Post No. 87, 7 p.m.
Henhouse Biddies, Lexington City Hall, 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 6—
A.F. & A.M. 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, May 7—
Willow Lodge, IOOF Hall, 8 p.m.
Rhea Creek Extension Unit, Grange Hall, 10:30 a.m.
County Court, 10:00 a.m.
Jaycees, 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 8—
Lexington Three Links Club, 2 p.m.
Soroptimist Club, 12 Noon,
Wagon Wheel Dining Room,
Program Meeting
Morrow County Port Commission, Boardman City Hall
Friday, May 9—
Rhea Creek Grange, 6:30 p.m.,
Potluck dinner, Meeting
Saturday, May 10—
Lexington Grange, 8 p.m.

Pioneer Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

"Big Foot" vs. "Snollygoster"

If you have been alarmed by recent stories about Big Foot prowling around the Northwest mountains, you may find consolation in the report that no tracks have been found in the Blue Mountains and that Big Foot is not a Snollygoster, the beast that is the terror of the swamplands in the South. It is built like an alligator except it is covered with long silky fur, has a sharp three foot spine on its back, and a propeller instead of a tail. It lives on poachers, and moonshiners. It hunts continually and impales its victims on the spine until it has three. Then it finds a clay bank, digs out a hole, shoves his prey into the hole and churns them into a soup. When the meat is ready, he inhales the soup. This description was given me by a poacher who left that country.

Welcome First Child

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Wilson of Pendleton are announcing the birth of their first child, a daughter, born Friday, April 18, in Pendleton. The little girl weighed 9 lb., 6 oz., and has been named Jamie Lynn. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Glen Corfield of Pendleton, and maternal grandmother is Mrs. Eddie Wilson of Lexington.

Ron Leonig of McMinnville returned to Heppner last Sunday evening for a few days of visiting with friends here while staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Erwin.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Rea of Portland made a recent visit at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clell Rea of Lexington, over the past week-end.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Heppner Elementary School and High School
May 5-9
Monday May 5 — Spaghetti, cheese sticks, green tossed salad, rolls and butter, pudding, milk.
Tuesday, May 6 — Sloppy Joe with homemade bun, green beans, Jell-O fruit salad, cookies, milk.
Wednesday, May 7 — Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, cabbage salad, apricots, milk, rolls, butter.
Thursday, May 8 — Baked ham, pork and beans, rolls and butter, celery sticks, milk, applesauce and graham crackers.
Friday, May 9 — Fish sticks, peas and carrots, hot rolls, butter, fruit cobbler.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

HEPPNER HIGH BASEBALL
Heppner at Pilot Rock, Sat., May 3
Final game of season

LEGION & AUXILIARY
Monthly Meeting, Monday, May 5
Potluck family dinner, 7 p.m.
Business meeting following
All members urged to attend

ELEMENTARY PTA
Special Music Program by Grade School Students
Wednesday, May 14, 8 p.m.
Grade School Gymnasium
PTA Business meeting before program

GOLDEN AGE CLUB
Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.
Potluck dinner, followed by entertainment
Guests welcome

PUBLIC CARD PARTY
By Holly Rebekah Lodge, Lexington IOOF Hall
Saturday, May 3, 8 p.m.
Last in series of six pinocle parties. Prizes given.

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Heppner

The Rhyming Philosopher

COMPENSATION

YOU MAY WIN AWARDS FROM NATIONS
AND ACHIEVE THE HIGHEST STATIONS,
YOU MY EVEN BE ENshrined IN HALLS OF FAME.
THOUGH IT SEEMS THE WORLD ADMIRES YOU
AND MOST EV'RY GIRL DESIRES YOU
STILL THERE'S ALWAYS SOME WON'T LIKE YOU, JUST THE SAME.

YOU EXCEL IN SPORTS OR LETTERS
AND ACKNOWLEDGE NONE AS BETTERS,
OR YOUR VOICE SELLS RECORDS FAST AS YOU CAN WINK.
YOU MAY EVEN BE A HERO.
BUT ON SOME COUNTS YOU GET ZERO
FOR THERE'S JUST AS MANY PEOPLE THINK YOU STINK!

THESE ARE FACTS SO WHY NOT FACE THEM,
GOALS ARE MADE SO WE CAN CHASE THEM
BUT WE CAN'T EXPECT SUPPORT FROM EV'RY SIDE.
THERE'LL BE LOTS OF FOLKS TO BAIT US
AND AMAZING LOTS TO HATE US
SINCE YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERYBODY, THOUGH YOU TRIED.

SO WHATEVER FIELD YOU WORK IN
KEEP ON GOING, NEVER SHIRKIN'
AND BE HAPPY WHEN YOU WIN EACH MINOR GAIN,
MAKE EACH DAY A NEW REVIVAL
AND BE GLAD FOR YOUR SURVIVAL;
WE APPRECIATE THE SUNSHINE AFTER RAIN.

HARRY W. FLETCHER

TO THE EDITOR

Attention Sportsmen

April 28, 1969

To the Editor:

The Morrow County Rifle and Pistol club would like to invite anyone interested in good outdoor movies to come to our monthly meeting on May 7, at 8:00 p.m. in the county courthouse. There will be two movies shown. First is "Wyoming Wealth of Wildlife." It shows over fifty kinds of wildlife in Wyoming; from birds to big game animals and fish. The need of wildlife for food and shelter is stressed as their only means of survival.

Second is "Big Game in the Rockies." It shows the great animals of the West plus the actual shooting of a top record Elk. These fine movies will be shown following a short business meeting of the club.

Several items of business that may interest sportsmen in this area are as follows:

There will be a discussion on whether the club should change its name to include anglers. If you have an opinion on this matter, the club would like to hear from you. It may be that the club could go on record as supporting anglers and sportsmen in Morrow county and accomplish the same effect as a name change.

The rules for our first tournament shoot will be outlined and discussed. This is planned for June 8 and will be open to the public. Entry fee will be \$1.00 for each rifle in each class. There will be three such shoots this summer. The best average for the three shoots will be given a trophy in each class.

Watch for posters explaining the rules.

Something else that is new for Northeastern Oregon is the formation of the Blue Mountain Elk Conservation Club in Pendleton. The main objective of the club at the present time is to propose and support legislation for the conservation of our Blue Mountain Elk. This group hopes to become strong enough in membership to support all outdoor sportsmen and recreationists. Their meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month in the Vert Auditorium in Pendleton. Membership is \$1.00 per year. The Morrow County Rifle and Pistol club feels that anyone interested in the welfare of Oregon's outdoor sports should look into the possibility of joining this organization. Their address is P. O. Box 1313, Pendleton, Oregon. I have membership cards for anyone interested in joining.

Hope to see you at our next meeting, May 7.

I would also like to call attention to a meeting of the Game Commission in Pendleton on May 8, Thursday, at 8 p.m. in Vert auditorium. At that time the commission will hear the public's views on birds, big game and fish. This is one of the first such meetings in this area, and all sportsmen interested should attend.

Sincerely yours,
Wayne Hams
M.C.R.&P. President

Mrs. Lowell Gribble enjoyed the past week-end in La Grande, where she was a guest at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Gribble.

Summer Dress Carnival

Penneys



CAREFREE POLYESTER KNITS

Like giving Mom a month in the country! These are the polyester double knits made for our machine way of life . . . into the washer, out of the dryer, ready to go on a moment's notice. Perfectly delicious pastels with a wealth of fashion detailing. Group includes yellow, pink, blue, green or aqua in sizes 10 to 18 and half sizes 14 1/2 to 22 1/2.

\$10 to \$15