

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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It's All How You Read It

It would seem that almost any school of thought can find some sorrowing satisfaction in the widespread defeat of school budgets around the state last week.

The sales tax proponents are quite sure that this was a revolt to indicate the need for a sales tax. The anti-sales tax people read it quite another way.

So, it would seem that it is a matter of interpreting it however you wish.

Our opinion is that it was neither a vote for or against the sales tax but rather it was simply a vote against putting out more money when the voter figures he doesn't have it to pay.

Some weeks ago—prior to the Morrow school district election—we expressed the feeling in this column that a great many school budgets would be defeated and that Morrow county's had a good chance of passing (which it did) simply because some districts were going "far out" on teachers' salaries, while they held the line for this year in Morrow county.

We can't feel that school boards who agreed to starting salaries as high as \$6700 were being very realistic. It isn't a matter of what would be good, or what would be nice, or what the other district might approve; it is simply a matter of what the taxpayer is able to pay. If all taxpayers were experiencing good times and had the money to go around, they wouldn't object so much to greatly increased budgets—and teacher salary increases are the biggest reason for the hikes in most instances.

We believe that the Oregon Education Association, in its zeal to push for high teacher salaries, did a distinct disservice to the public and its own members.

The Morrow county teachers were implored not to accept less than \$6300 and to go to impasse first. If they had followed this advice our budget would be at "impasse" right now—just as many others are around the state.

Somehow, the educational association has become totally blinded to the public's ability to pay, or impervious to it. There are many, many reasonable people who vote on school budgets. There are many who realize the importance of good teachers and their value. They want them to have good salaries and raises consistent with cost of living inflation and commensurate with their professional progress.

But they cannot afford to go "hog wild" and will not give tacit approval to increases beyond their ability to pay. They are getting tired of hearing, too, that one district must hike its salaries sharply because other districts are doing it. This matter of playing one district against another has been going on for years.

The middle class of our society is finding that its "well" is going dry. It is taxed to an oppressive point by the federal government, which indulges in gross waste at every hand. There are many, many examples of this. Millionaires, as it has been noted in the news of late, have found dodges and exemptions so they can get off without paying a just share of taxes. Some pay none at all! But the conscientious middle class person is paying through the nose, to the point that he has nothing left.

He can't do much about the federal spending — except howl. He can't do much more about state spending although he sees waste at this level, too. But he can do something about school budgets when they are, in his opinion, too high. That may be tough for the school people, but by and large we believe they are getting adequate money for their needs.

They could use more for advanced equipment or latest methods, but what small business wouldn't love to have some piece of machinery that the owner has wanted for years; or what farmer wouldn't be tickled pink to get some farm equipment that he has hesitated to buy because of economic conditions?

We think Morrow county people showed good confidence in their schools, the administration and the teachers by passing the budget here. We think our people now must face up to an increase for teachers next year. It is to be hoped that our economy surges somewhat so that it will be easier to meet.

But to look at the budget defeats around the state and declare that this is a vote to emphasize the need for a sales tax is nothing but pure bunk. Voters aren't that light headed. The same middle class person who felt he couldn't afford those increases also knows that he will pay more total tax if a sales tax is passed on June 3. And the sad, sad truth is that many of such people just don't have it to pay!

Regardless of what the OEA salary drum beaters say, there is still no way "to get blood out of a turnip." It was a little surprising to note the number of smaller districts that did approve their budgets. Perhaps the smaller districts have better communications; perhaps the patrons can more readily see results in the schools; perhaps local economic conditions vary and some have more resources.

It is estimated, however, that districts comprising 60% of the total students of the state are still passing their budgets. We believe some of them still have a mighty rough road ahead in view of the burdens they would place on their tax-paying people.

The OEA reads in these budget defeats a great calamity for education. We think no such thing. We read in them the necessity for the OEA to get its feet on the ground.

Veterans Benefits Concern of Council

Members of the Umatilla-Morrow Veterans Council assembled at the Legion Hall here last Tuesday, May 6, to discuss many of the latest legislative measures concerning veterans' benefits.

The council includes all Veterans' organizations which were represented by many from Pendleton and Hermiston as well as the local surrounding areas.

An election of new officers is planned for the council and installation ceremonies will be held here in the fall.

Ericksons Have Son

Mr. and Mrs. Owen Erickson of Pendleton became parents of a 6 lb., 8 oz., son on April 27, and was named Jerrold Owen. He joined a two-year-old sister, Janna Rhea. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Tholberg of Heppner are the maternal grandparents, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Erickson of Newport are paternal grandparents. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Helge Tholberg and Mrs. Kate Schweigart, all of Pendleton.

Gazette-Times want ads pay. Phone 676-9228 for G-T want ad service.

Chaff and Chatter Wes Sherman

SOME OBSERVANT person spotted a human skeleton near the junction of the Bomb Range road with Interstate I-80N on April 25 after sand had blown away to expose it.

This caused considerable speculation and Sheriff John Mollahan investigated. He received his report from the experts just the other day. They determined that the remains are from 60 to 160 years old, so if there were foul play involved, it happened some time ago.

Indications are, though, that the skeleton was that of a buried there. Time and the wind exposed his grave.

WE NOTE with interest and approval that Cong. Al Ullman has introduced legislation which would provide citizens with protection against the intrusion of unwanted advertising in their homes.

He expressed concern over the growing volume of sexually oriented advertising which is routinely delivered to American families.

"I think this is particularly bad when there are minor children in the home," he said, "and I think that parents who want to protect their children from exposure to this material should have the right to keep it out of their daily mail."

Under Ullman's proposal, a citizen could file a request with the postmaster general that no sexually oriented advertising be delivered to his home. It would then be the responsibility of the senders to inspect the list and keep their information from the person making the request. Strict penalties are provided if the advertiser does not comply with this regulation.

"I fully support the courts' efforts to protect our right of free speech," Ullman said. "However, in the case of pornographic advertising, I think that this freedom should be counterbalanced with the right to personal privacy."

Good for Cong. Ullman! Sounds as if he has a good solution. In this case, the government wouldn't be acting as censor, but the individual would be able to protect his family from that trash.

Just a few weeks ago there was a rash of filthy material mailed from a California firm to Heppner, and apparently all over the state. This was so brazen as to advertise outside what was inside and advise the sender that if he didn't want it to so inform the post office. Apparently quite a few did just that—and some with vehemence.

SAY, HEPPNERITES, remember that this is Cleanup week. The Jaycees will pick up trash at the curbs Friday night. So get your debris out in boxes in such a shape that it can easily be handled.

SPEAKING OF CLEANUP, we have received word from CLEAN, a non-profit public service agency sponsored by busi-

ness, industry and labor groups in the Northwest to combat littering, that it is making clearing up "tool kits" available again this year.

In the community clean-up tool kits are a how-to-do-it-organizational guide, signs, teacher's guides, litter bags, and other information and materials to aid a community or club carry out an effective summertime program.

This might be a good project idea for some of our local organizations.

They sent a sample of the litter bag. It has a strip of sensitized tape on the back so that it will stick almost anywhere.

These kits are available by contacting CLEAN Headquarters, 408 Tower Building, Seattle 98101.

HOW GREEN IS OUR VALLEY!

Coming up Willow Creek the other day, we couldn't help but notice how lush and green it looks now. Pastures and alfalfa are lush at the Hynd place, and on up at the Krebs place. In fact, all the way to Heppner.

Lewis Halvorsen's place and the Herb Ekstroms' look great. And clear on up to the Evans place outside of Heppner where the artesian well has made such a difference. There is a lot of land leveling going on up and down the creek, new irrigation systems going full tilt, and many of the ranches look like picture postcards with stock grazing and spring coming on in full bloom.

Even the hills are greener than usual this spring, having benefited from the heavy snow and later moisture. Quite a contrast from some of the "brown" springs!

While traveling with County Agent Harold Kerr the other day, though, we discussed the tight patches in the grain fields. There is some puzzlement about this but may be due to a snow mould under the ground, or we hope, may be just a bit later in coming on because it might have been covered late by heavy drifts. If it is going to come, though, it had better be doing so soon. Maybe the warmer days will bring it on.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Rudy Bergstroms—and to the Bill Bergstroms—on the Conservation Men of the Year honor. We had a nice visit with them at their place Thursday and got a little closer to Gooseberry history, about which we have heard so much.

What a pretty and cool yard they have at their home! We enjoyed seeing some of the innovations Rudy has made in conservation practices. He piled up a diversion embankment to carry water off a spot that might erode, but the contour changed at the end so that the slope went in the opposite direction.

So Rudy merely started another embankment on the opposite side that picks up the water and moves it on. This apparently had the soil conservation boys scratching their heads. They couldn't find it among the approved practices. But it works!

YOUR SENATOR REPORTS...

BY KEN JERNSTEDT, STATE SENATOR

18th District, Including Morrow county

Law gives us the very existence of our country. It has been this way from its meager beginning 350 years ago when a small band of immigrants settled in a new land.

For these founders of our country knew at first hand the sacrifices and struggles involved in earning freedom. And, it was because of this that they were determined to establish a system where the concept of order and the rule of law would be forever preserved inviolate from the ambitions of those seeking too much power.

It was their intention then, and it should be our intention now that no individual should become a self-appointed arbiter of the law with the authority to choose which laws he will obey and which laws he will ignore. Unfortunately, however, as we scan our country over the last few years many of our fellow citizens have felt compelled to take this right. This approach must be deplored. Such a concept can only lead to the loss of respect for the law, thus opening the door to anarchy and chaos.

In response to this situation, the Oregon Legislature has designated each May 1 as Law Day. It is the intention of the Legislature that by setting aside this special day of observance and appreciation of the liberties afforded us by our system of laws that we can accomplish three objectives: to make more meaningful to Oregonians, especially the youth, their heritage of individual freedom under law; to foster increased respect for law and the courts which protect the rights of all citizens; and, to emphasize the basic values of the rule of law in the state.

We are a state and nation governed by laws which were made by man. Because man is not infallible, some of these laws are imperfect. But, this knowledge provides no excuse for disobeying the law. The remedy is to use your influence

to get an unjust law changed in an orderly manner, through participation in local activities, local and state governments, and by using your power of voting.

It goes without saying that the law must be enforced. Enforced with impartiality and no excuses for those who violate it.

As it was once said, we will not be better than our laws. The dignity of the law, its weight on the scales of justice, its observance by all our citizens, its conception of rights and wrongs; all these will determine in large measure, how long our state and nation will endure. Let's try and observe Law Day more than just on the first of May.

Pioneer Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

Fighting Fire With Fire

That seems to be the strategy of our economic planners at every level of our economy in this proclaimed fight against inflation. They are escalating salaries, increasing wages and advocating more of the same, and raising first class postage rates to seven cents must be a spark in their "backfire." That is a seventeen percent increase. Maybe it is time for professional strategists to remove their "hoodwinks" and view the situation with open eyes before our prosperity burns itself out. Too many of us are being caught between the fire of inflation and the "backfire" set by our brave inflation fighters.

Morrow County CROP-WEATHER SUMMARY

(For Week Ending May 9, 1969)

Soil moisture supply is adequate. Plowing nearly completed. Cheatsgrass heading in some fields. Many fields seeded two to three times. Very little rust in county. Winter wheat looking better after warm days. Nitrogen skip showing in grain, thin stands evident on north slopes. Planting red beans in north end under irrigation. Potatoes emerging.

Moyer Awarded Fellowship Grant

Bruce Moyer has been named a recipient of a grant for graduate study at the School of Business Administration at the University of Montana at Missoula for the 1969-70 academic year. At the completion of course requirements, he will receive a Master of Science degree in Business Education.

He will be on leave from his present work as head of the commercial department at La Grande High School while taking the specialized study, and his wife and family will accompany him to Missoula.

A graduate of Heppner High School, he is the son of Melvin Moyer, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cunningham and Mrs. Lora Moyer, and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Harlan McCurdy, Jr., all of Heppner.

Nielsen Plans Visit To Former Homeland

A return visit to friends and relatives in his former homeland in Denmark is anticipated by John Nielsen of Heppner, who planned to leave by plane from Seattle on Thursday (today), May 15, for the flight across the North Pole.

Nielsen plans to remain for at least a three month visit with his brother and two sisters and their families, all of whom live near Copenhagen.

He last visited his native homeland about three years ago, where he was born and raised about 20 miles south of Copenhagen, the capital city of the kingdom which occupies the peninsula of Jutland, between the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

Accompanying the local man on his trip will be his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon DeVore of Portland, who will remain to visit for at least three weeks before returning to their home.

Prior to making his overseas visit, he planned a short trip to Eugene to spend time with his son, John Nielsen, Jr., who is a student at the university.

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 Joyce Ritch, Morrow County Special Assessor, under the name "PROPERTY TAX FAX". Please ask only one question per sheet.

QUESTION:

I am planning to build a new home and I would like to have some idea of the actual amount of taxes this may cost me. Can you tell me how to estimate this?

ANSWER:

Exactly, no. In general yes. If you know the approximate contract price of the new home and add to this the cost of the lot and on-site improvements such as driveways, side walks, patios, etc. (if they are not included in the contract price) you will then have a fair estimate of the market value of the property. Then, by multiplying the total cost by the current tax rate it would give you a rough estimate of the tax. Rates do vary from year to year so this is only an estimate. If you will give the total value to your Assessor, he can help you in arriving at an estimated tax.

Barlow Service Held Wednesday

Funeral services were held for Mrs. Alvin (Lucille Byrne) Barlow, 32, at the Heppner Christian church Wednesday afternoon, May 14, at 2:00 p.m. Officiating was the Rev. O. D. Harris, and sacred selections were by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Marquardt of Lexington.

Vault interment was in the Heppner Masonic cemetery, with Sweeney Mortuary directing the arrangements.

Mrs. Barlow, who made her home in the Eightmile area, died in an automobile accident south of Heppner on Tuesday afternoon, May 6. She was riding with her husband toward their home when their car apparently went out of control and plunged over a 20-foot embankment. Mr. Barlow received medical treatment in Pioneer Memorial hospital, and was released Monday.

Mrs. Barlow was born February 27, 1917, in Robertson, Wyo., the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hamilton. She was married to Alvin Barlow in Heppner on June 9, 1964. She was a member of the Rhea Creek Grange No. 669, and had been a resident of the Ione and Heppner areas for a number of years.

Surviving, besides her husband, are three daughters, Ramona Edwards of Milwaukie, Sammie Anderson of Seattle, Wn., and Helen Jackie Byrne of Ione. Also three sons, Tony Hatch of Arlington, Texas, Jerry Rollins of U. S. Navy in Norfolk, Va., and Craig Rollins of Santa Monica, Calif. She leaves three sisters, Helen Goodrick of Robertson, Wyo., Ethel Kidman and Clara Davis, both of Mt. View, Wyo.; three brothers, George, Les, and Robbie Hamilton, all of Landers, Wyo., and 14 grandchildren.

Open House Slated At Radar Station

Unusual radar electronic equipment will be viewed by the public at Condon Air Force Station on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 17, at open house from 1 until 4:30 p.m.

Guided tours of little seen radar electronic equipment will be given. The public is invited to be guests at a cake cutting ceremony at 2:30 p.m. with the theme of the ceremony being "Alert Today—Alive Tomorrow," celebrating the 20 years of Condon Air Force Station's existence.

A highlight of the ceremony will be a flyover of Air National Guard F-102's at 2:30.

Some of the sections to be toured outside of the security areas will be the auto hobby and lapidary shop, facilities for the airman and NCO's, and the administrative work centers. Electronics areas to be toured are operations and control centers, computer section, radar receiving tower, and radar maintenance sections.

Man Faces Charge Of Non-Support

Kenneth Floyd Green was brought to Morrow county May 6 from Rocky Butte jail, Multnomah county, to face a charge of non-support, Sheriff John Mollahan said.

He was arrested in Multnomah county for Morrow county. Green posted \$100 bail in justice court of Lowell Gribble and was released. Justice court hearing will be held on June 10.

Completes Basic

Pvt. John Dubuque completed basic training at Fort Lewis, Wn., last week, and is now stationed at Fort Sill, Okla. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Toussant Dubuque, were among those attending the graduation ceremonies last Thursday. John expects to be in training with the artillery division at Fort Sill for about the next eight months.

Dan McBride Joins Father in Business

Dan McBride, who was separated from service with the Navy about two weeks ago after 3 1/2 years of duty, is joining his father, Nate McBride, in the auto body shop business here.

The son arrived home April 30 after spending much of his duty on overseas assignments, including the Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, Hawaii, Hong Kong and others. His home port was Alameda, Calif.

As an enlistment third class, McBride was in charge of a field injection shop on the USS Delta, a repair ship. It serviced destroyers and ships running to Vietnam.

The young man now will be on two years of inactive service. Also joining the staff at McBride's Body Shop is Dick Scovill who is expected to begin work next week. Scovill has completed training in the automotive field at Blue Mountain Community College.

Charlie Walker, formerly with McBride, has opened a shop of his own. This gave some the impression that McBride did not plan to continue operating.

"We're open for business and going stronger than ever," McBride said. "We welcome the two new young men and expect to offer even better service than in the past."

Bob Kroll to Report

Bob Kroll, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Nelson of Lexington, will report to San Diego, Calif., after leaving here May 18. He will attend a Navy school there. Mr. and Mrs. Kroll (Phyllis Nelson) and baby son, Brian, have been visiting with the Nelsons since their return recently from Pensacola, Fla., where he was on duty with the Navy. Kroll has about 1 1/2 years to serve on his current enlistment.

Attend Conference

Mrs. Grace Drake, Morrow county juvenile counselor, and Lowell Chally, county welfare administrator, attended the Oregon Corrections Association spring conference in Pendleton on Friday. Both are members of the association.

MEETING CALENDAR

- Monday, May 19—School Board, Regular Meeting, District Office, Lexington, 7:30 p.m. Ruth Assembly No. 50, Order of Rainbow for Girls, Masonic Hall, 7 p.m. Chamber of Commerce, 12 Noon, Wagon Wheel Dining Room, Civic League, Kindergarten Room, 8 p.m. Morrow County Fair Board, Fair Dormitory, 8 p.m. Neighborhood Center Advisory Board, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20—A.F. & A.M. No. 69, 8 p.m. LDS Relief Society, Legion Hall, 9:45 a.m. Wednesday, May 21—Carnation Club, 8 p.m. Willow Lodge, IOOF Hall, 8 p.m. Jaycees, 8 p.m. Saturday, May 24—Morrow County Gem and Mineral Society, McMurtry Building, 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

RAINBOW INSTALLATION Ruth Assembly No. 50, formal installation of new officers Sunday, May 18, 4:00 p.m. Heppner Masonic Hall Public invited

SENIOR GIRLS' TEA Sponsored by Soroptimist Club Sunday, May 18, 2-4 p.m. Episcopal Parish Hall All Senior Girls and Mothers invited

SCHOOL CONCERT Wednesday, May 21, 7:30 p.m. Combined grade and high school bands and high school chorus High School Gymnasium

IMPORTANT MEETING Special Weed Control and State Sales Tax Package meeting sponsored by Farm Bureau Friday, May 23, 1:30 p.m., Fair Pavilion Marion D. Thomas, State Extension Specialist, guest speaker. Public invited.

ART SHOW Work of Art students of Ione, Lexington, Heppner and Arlington Ione Legion Hall, Sunday, May 18, 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. Sponsored by Beta Omega sorority

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

The Rhyming Philosopher

AFFLUENCE

I SAY TO MY FRIEND, I'LL CONCEDE, AS IT WERE, YOUR PEDIGREED PUP IS JUST LOVELY, BUT WHAT IT HAS MORE THAN MY LOVABLE CUR IS SOMETHING BEYOND AND ABOVE ME.

MY HOUSE IS OLD-FASHIONED AND NEEDING REPAIR, MY NEIGHBOR'S IS QUITE OSTENTATIOUS; BUT MINE IS A HOME AND I'M HAPPIEST THERE WHERE LOVE IS ABIDING AND GRACIOUS.

THE PLACE WHERE YOU LIVE MAY BE SHOWY OR PLAIN, YOUR WORK MAY BE MANUAL OR MENTAL; AND WHAT YOU ACHIEVE OR ASPIRE TO ATTAIN IS IMPORTANT, BUT QUITE INCIDENTAL.

FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE A MILLIONAIRE DAD IT'S WASTING YOUR TIME TO REGRET IT; YOU NEVER WILL MISS WHAT YOU NEVER HAVE HAD, SO FACE THE COLD FACTS AND FORGET IT.

ALL WEALTH IS TO ME JUST A RELATIVE SHAM; IF I KNEW THE ANSWER I'D GIVE IT, I'VE GOT WHAT I'VE GOT AND I AM WHAT I AM, I'M RICH 'CAUSE I'M SATISFIED WITH IT!

HARRY W. FLETCHER