

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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Phone 676-9228
MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Morrow County Jinxed On Friday the Thirteenth

Friday the 13th and people of Morrow County went into a state of shock and disbelief at the charges made on Morrow County Schools in the Oregon Tax Research bulletin titled, "Morrow Schools Use Illegal Tax" and subsequently carried in the daily papers and over the radio. It concerned the 1968-69 budget.

Shock turned into righteous indignation at the false impression left in the article. They wrote of "serious errors and abuse of statutory authority". They credit themselves with finding the error. An error had been made but had long been righted according to directions from the Oregon State Tax Commission.

Ron Daniels discovered the error in March of 1969 when he began working on the budget comparisons.

The school district had certified in proper form to the County assessor the amount of money to be levied for the General Fund, \$1,044,118, and the amount to be levied for payment of bonds, principal and interest \$87,015 and the total of these two figures for the amount of money to be raised by taxation \$1,131,133.

This form was sent to the County Assessor's office at the time when Joyce Ritch had just been appointed as acting assessor and a member from the State Tax Commission office had been called in to assist her. Mr. Daniels points out how the error was apparently made. They took the amount of money to be raised by taxation \$1,131,133 (which already had included in it the Bond, principal and interest figure) and added to it the amount of the Bond money again.

The wires were kept hot for a few days between the district office, the assessor's office, the state tax commission and the County Court after the error was discovered.

The Tax Commission gave the County Court two alternatives: they could make refunds to individual taxpayers or the money would be retained and used as a tax offset the following year.

The Court recalled an earlier similar situation when \$162,000 road levy had to be returned to the individual taxpayers. Many of these checks weren't over \$1.50 and some of those checks never were cashed. This, plus the monumental task of computing the refunds and cost of mailing them out prompted the Court to decide to retain the money which was used as a tax offset the following year.

Ron Daniels, when he became superintendent, 1967-1968, inherited an unrealistic budget which had underestimated expenses and which he knew would end with a deficit. Because work on the next year's budget was completed before the end of the 1967-68 year, the exact amount of the deficit was not known and wasn't picked up in the 1968-69 budget. The deficit when known, was \$96,000. The district picked up \$15,000 in the 1968-69 budget towards the deficit which left \$81,000 to be made up in the 1969-70 budget.

Though taxes are levied, 90% is collected. Of the \$87,015 over levy on the error, only enough was collected to wipe out Mr. Daniels' inherited deficit to start the 1969-70 budget year with a zero in budgeted cash carryover.

If the court had returned the money to the individual taxpayers, an amount equal to the deficit which the over-collection had wiped out would have been added to the 1969-70 budget.

It seems so simple. How the Oregon Tax Research could blow it all out of proportion is beyond the clear thinking of most of the people of Morrow County.

We have a profound respect for Ron Daniels, his knowledge of school budgets, and his understanding and good judgment.

He and Joyce Ritch have both volunteered to talk with anyone, any group, anytime.

Now shall we all hold our breath until the next Friday the 13th rolls around . . . next month?

No Excuse for Disloyalty

A great many people have become heartily sick of the daily diet of pictures and stories concerning ranting dissenters and unreasoning abuse of the U. S. system and its institutions. A top business leader, in viewing "The heat and extent of the debate going on . . .", says that it is a daily reminder "that our system allows considerably more room for dissent than is to be found in the systems erected by the followers of Marx, Lenin, Che Guevara, Comrade Mao, and the other heroes of the militant Left." This business leader readily admits that we have such things as . . . poverty, inferior education, inequality, and urban decay—which are as old as civilization itself.

" . . . However," he adds, "none of these is new, and all of them happen to exist to a greater degree outside the United States than they do here." He concluded that the fact that we are trying to eradicate some of these age-old evils is "clearly in the pioneering and egalitarian tradition of America. Thanks to the tremendous productive capacity of our economy, such a goal may indeed be within our reach. No other sizeable country in the world could seriously begin to consider such an undertaking, on economic grounds alone." In the spirit of loyal opposition, criticism is healthy. However, much of the opposition of today lacks any trace of a spirit of loyalty to the U. S.

Postal News

By JAMES H. DRISCOLL

Postmaster

A new order from Postmaster General Winton M. Blount will mean substantial improvement in mail delivery service for an estimated 4 million Americans.

According to information received at the local office the department plans to expand service now provided by Rural routes. To be eligible for rural route service prior to the current change one must have resided at least one half mile from the post office. Under the announced change, this requirement will be reduced to one fourth mile thus making many

additional residents eligible for home delivery. Although Heppner does not have any Rural routes the contract Star Routes perform all the services provided by rurals and it is believed the policy will be implemented by their expansion. The program will be under the direct jurisdiction of the Regional Office of the Post Office Department in Seaside, but those patrons who are eligible and desire the service may make application for same through the local office.

ADOLFO C. BARDI, representative of Mutual of New York, Cattleman Assn. & Livestock Assn. will be in Heppner Feb. 26 & 27. He may be contacted at the Northwestern Motel, Tel. 676-9167.

CHUCK WAGON

Feller told us nothing prompts the payment of an old dental bill like a new toothache.

Boys will be boys as will a lot of middle aged men.

Surprised the paper got out again this week? Me, too!

Bruce Bothwell has built a beautiful fireplace of petrified wood and apparently some handsome rocks in his new house just off Hager Street. We understand the rocks and petrified wood came from various places such as Big Baldy, at the

head of Potamus Creek and some from Opal Butte.

An advertising club in Portland wanted some little newspapers to give prizes in a drawing they had this week. They wanted things typical of the area. After scratching our noggin's for a couple of weeks, Dorothy came up with the idea of sending a \$5 Beef Certificate. Attached was a note "From Morrow County, Where the Big Beef-steaks Grow".

FRED LONG, representative of Capitol Life Ins. Co. will be in Heppner Feb. 26 & 27. He may be contacted at the Northwestern Motel, Tel. 676-5167.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors:

Valentine's Day and Valentines all over the ranch and I never sent any. Ah me. I got all kinds all the way from gold hearts and flowers with a lovely handkerchief enclosed to a toy horse under the door.

In a note from Leta Thomas in Tucson, Ariz. She says she follows the news letters carefully and is glad to see my notes in them, reminds her of the "old days". They need rain down there but the weather is wonderful with nights often cold. Says she hasn't seen many Oregon people but did see Marjorie Worden's brother and wife in church and one woman from Willamette View Manor at Tubac where she attended art show. The place continues to grow with mobile homes coming every week, the most elaborate being a triple wide costing \$65,000, but most are double which is what Leta has. Leta has a new car this winter.

Hills Saturday. She used to be berton's Market in Raleigh Hills Saturday. She use to be a roommate of Mary White, a former Heppner girl, who now has a very responsible position with the Oregon Railroad Association. Her twin sister, Frances Moon, on her Valentine says that what with a new line of work with the Telephone Company in which she is in the executive branch and with raising a teenager "Meredith" in this "difficult age for the young" her life is really at "sixes and sevens" (whatever that is). Fran wonders if we were "aggravating at the age." (ah yes and how)

Ellis Thomson writes from New York City saying his younger brother, Earl, has retired from the Portland Police force and he and his wife have purchased a camper and "goeth where they listeth". Have spent part of the winter in Florida and are now in Mexico.

He apparently sees Ted Young, a former Heppner lad, son of Lutie Farnsworth Young (Morgan) as he says Ted is comfortably retired but did not say where and what he did. I wrote and asked him if he tells me I shall let you know.

The Farnsworth family is an old pioneer Morrow County family with a home in south Heppner. Had a telephone call from Ed Nikander Saturday morning. Nice. It was wonderful hearing from someone from "home". He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Nikander of Heppner.

Also one morning in Meier & Frank's I ran into Florence Becket. It did indeed seem like "old times" when I "covered the waterfront" regarding harvest news from the Eightmile and other wheat districts. So life goes on.

Cordially yours, Josephine Mahoney Baker 2545 S. W. Terwilliger, Apt. 525 Tel. 226-4911 Portland 97201

School Lunch Menus Presented Through Courtesy of Heppner Branch

Monday, Feb. 23—Barbecued pork, baked potato, tossed salad, hot bread, fruit, graham crackers, milk.

Tuesday, Feb. 24—Hot dogs, potato chips, pickles, cole slaw, fruit cobbler, milk.

Wednesday, Feb. 25—Hamburger gravy with rice, peas, cinnamon rolls, lettuce wedge, ice cream, milk.

Thursday, Feb. 26 — Pizza, green beans, Waldorf salad, apple crisp, milk.

Friday, Feb. 27 — Fish sticks and French fries, peas and carrots, rolls, purple plums, graham crackers, milk.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OREGON

Heppner Elementary and High Schools

Monday, Feb. 23—Barbecued

Tuesday, Feb. 24—Hot dogs,

Wednesday, Feb. 25—Hamburger

Thursday, Feb. 26 — Pizza,

Friday, Feb. 27 — Fish sticks

Portland, Ore. Feb. 16, 1970

To the Editor:

We really missed last weeks issue for some reason. We look forward to the paper since you folks have taken over. You have more local news, like the old Gazette-Times when the Crawford family owned it, and Josephine (Mahoney) Baker wrote such interesting columns about the local people.

I am a sister of Victor Groshens who is your city water superintendent. Our father Victor and Emile's father were early day pioneers coming from Alsace Lorraine, France. Our dad took up a homestead on the Potamus, the old Groshens cabin still stands. Dad panned for gold in the John Day. Later he owned the whole corner block where the Gilliam and Bisbee brick building stands now.

I am writing this letter especially to let our Brother Harry Groshens friends up there know that he is slowly recovering from a very serious heart attack.

Our niece on the Dempsey side is Virginia Kelso of Kinzua who writes for your paper. The Dempsey trucks hauled the rock for almost every road in Morrow County.

Hoping you keep adding more and more local news for us Heppnerites who are in various towns now.

Yours truly, Blanche (Groshens) Dempsey 4727 S. E. Lincoln Portland, Ore.

When you patronize Gazette-Times advertisers, you help make a better paper. Tell them you saw it in the Gazette-Times.



GUESTS SEATED at the tables at top from left: Mrs. Clara Kincaid, Mrs. Mary Becket, Mary Wright and Mabel Davidson. The middle picture from left, William Mess and George Smith. The lower picture shows Lenna Smith and Betty Doherty presenting the hair dryers (the hand is Mrs. Pierce's . . . we're sorry) Guests still at the table are Mary Healy, Myrtle Smith and Imogene Mooney.

Soroptimists Give Valentine Party

Everything was fun and gay at the Soroptimist Valentine party at the Nursing Home Saturday. Fourteen men and women enjoyed the party complete with favors and gifts, Valentine decorations, Valentine cakes and red punch.

Through contribution of green stamps by members of the Soroptimist Club, two portable hair dryers were presented to the hospital. These will be used each Saturday as Soroptimist members give the women of the Nursing Home a lift with a weekly hair-do. Mrs. Gene Pierce RN accepted the dryers on behalf of the Pioneer Memorial hospital.

A delight to the guests were Traci Boner and Mary Daly from one of the Heppner Blue Bird groups. They handed out the gifts to each guest and then sang their "Goodby" song which they sing at the close of each meeting. Their leader accompanied them and she is Mrs. Vern

Keithley. Soroptimists giving an assist were Mrs. Phillip Doherty, Mrs. Glen Smith, Mrs. Conley Latham, Mrs. Charles Heard and Mrs. Bill Weatherford.

Another Mistake

Now before the Oregon Tax Research blows it sky high, we must apologize for the error in last week's budget story which gave the teachers a base pay of \$7800.

A double check of Supt Ron Daniels' article a few weeks back was made to be sure the right figure was used. Then the old type lice, gremlins, Friday the 13th and what-have-you struck the wrong keys and instead of \$6700 out came the wrong figures.

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

Fiesta Bowl

Saturday Morning Goof-offs

Team	Won	Lost
Nine Pins	29	15
Ten Pins	28½	15½
Uncolas	22	22
Cardinals	20½	23½
Killers	16½	27½
Lyons	15½	28½

High Ind. Game—Sheryl Massey, 158; High Ind. Series—David McLeod, 365; High Team Game — Nine Pins, 448; High Team Series—Lyons, 1214.

Trade at home—where your dollars have more sense.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

CHILI FEED

Heppner Civic League for Kindergarten Feb. 20, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. High school preceding Pilot Rock game \$5.00 Family Tickets Adults, \$1.25; HS, \$1.00; GS, \$.75; under 4 free. Also serving Macaroni and cheese, tossed salad and homemade desserts

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY SALE DAYS FEB. 20-21, HEPPNER

HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL

Feb. 20, Pilot Rock at Heppner Feb. 21—Madras at Heppner —Last home game

BPOE NO. 358

73rd Annual Celebration Feb. 21, Elks Temple

HHS SENIOR CLASS PLAY "You Can't Take It With You" Feb. 26-27

SPONSORED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY C. A. RUGGLES Insurance Agency

P. O. Box 247 PH. 676-9625 If no answer call Ray Boyce, 676-5384 Heppner



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WE ARE PREPARED TO HANDLE ALL KINDS OF SPECIALTY PRINTING JOBS. SEE US BEFORE YOU GO OUT OF MORROW COUNTY FOR YOUR WORK. IF WE CAN'T DO IT FASTER AND MORE ECONOMICALLY WE'LL TELL YOU SO.



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