

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836
Phone 676-9228

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

The Heppner Gazette established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 15, 1912.

MEMBERS OF NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSN. AND OREGON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSN.

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Circulation

Subscription Rates: \$5.00 Year. Single Copy 10 Cents. Mailed Single Copies 15 Cents in Advance; Minimum Billing 50 cents. Published Every Thursday and Entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as Second Class Matter.

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 11 noon Saturday.

Needed . . . Badly!

Elsewhere in this week's issue of the Gazette-Times there is an article on establishing a new tax base for school districts.

It seems a provision for establishing new tax bases is long overdue. Some districts don't have a tax base and other districts have tax bases that were established 40 and 50 years ago.

Oregon in 1916 voted a protective 6% limitation. Taxing bodies such as school districts, cities, counties, are required to have a vote of the people to exceed the 6% of their tax base.

But because the tax base is not realistic, most taxing units are not able to operate within this 6% limitation and must vote every year.

The City of Pilot Rock stayed within their 6% limitation last year as did Heppner. Counties are struggling. When the State took over the Welfare program, counties were allowed to add the amount of the 6% and then subtract the amount of their 1967 Welfare. This base was to be used for three years without benefit of the 6% annual increase.

A new realistic base for school districts would bring stability to school districts. The new tax base would be computed from a tax base that would approximate the total current operating budget.

It is interesting to note that if last year's Morrow County School budget could have been used as a base, there would be no need to vote on this year's school budget. The 1970-71 school budget would have been within the 6% limitation.

This reflects trustworthy and efficient use of the school district's money.

Be informed of this initiative to establish the new tax base for schools. You'll vote on it this fall.

Perhaps A Small Kelly Lake

A story on the front page of the Gazette-Times tells about the rubble and clay underlay that make a high dam at Kelly Prairie unsatisfactory.

This is most disappointing as the 500 acre lake would have added much to the enjoyment of local fishermen and campers, to say nothing of tourists who would discover it.

However, from comment about town perhaps a smaller lake would be a practical solution. A low dam with a special treatment for the dam and bottom of the proposed lake might be sufficient to hold water, which would at least partially save the project.

Only bright spot as far as recreation goes is the fact that the Penland Prairie lake development will start soon.

If the Kelly project on a smaller scale seems practical, only a flood of letters to the Oregon State Game Commission at Salem will get the ball rolling again.

Gasoline from Wheat . . .

How much nicer our environment would be if motorists were able to "get the lead out" of their gasoline. And if the Oregon wheat growers can muster enough support to substitute grain alcohol for lead additives in gasoline, the pollution caused from exhaust fumes can be lessened considerably.

Governor Tom McCall, speaking at an Agri-Business Council meeting, reported that 650 tons of pollutants are emitted from automobiles and trucks every day in the Portland area alone. In the U.S., scientists say that 80 per cent of the lead pollution comes from car exhausts.

The wheat growers' plan sounds rather simple. Wheat, which is now in heavy surplus and is bringing farmers low prices, can be processed to produce alcohol. This alcohol would then replace the lead now used in gasoline.

USDA funds, now being used to support rock-bottom wheat prices, would be diverted to research to get the program into action. This would eliminate vast surpluses of wheat and, at the same time, hike wheat prices up to a realistic figure.

Marion T. Weatherford, Arlington farmer who grows wheat on a 7,000 acre spread, says the plan is definitely workable. "At least one plant in the Midwest is currently processing grain into alcohol, and it has been done in various other countries for years," he points out.

He mentions, also, that a similar plan was used during World War II to produce synthetic rubber.

Weatherford mentions that the plan is not without problems. "First, we don't produce enough wheat in America to fulfill the requirement of the gasoline industry," he says. To jump this hurdle, other grains could also be used, additional wheat could be planted, and imported wheat could be used.

Secondly, grain alcohol is drinkable before it's mixed with gasoline. Close supervision would have to be provided at the processing level so the mixture would end up in the gas tank, rather than a hip flask.

And thirdly, it would cost more to use grain alcohol than it costs for lead. One estimate is that the re-tooling of the auto industry for a non-lead high octane gasoline would add about 2.2 cents per gallon.

Because of a growing concern for cleaning up the environment, Weatherford doesn't think the added cost would pose a big problem. The other two drawbacks, too, he feels are surmountable.

Oregon's 7,500 wheat farmers, plagued with poor prices for more years than they care to remember, are in hopes that the plan can be worked out. John Welbes, executive vice president of the Oregon Wheat League, observes. "Twenty years ago, the national average for a bushel of wheat was \$2.40 while last year's price was \$1.20."

The plan makes a lot of sense for Oregonians since it would help clean up the air while pumping new dollars into the state's economy. Oregon wheat growers hope President Nixon likes the plan, as well, since many growers feel he is the only person in the country with enough influence to make it work.

(Agri-Business Council of Oregon).

Small boy watching toe dancers at a ballet: "Why don't they just get taller girls?"

Larry Mollahan Moves to Portland

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Mollahan, Brent, Patsy, John and Mary of Portland visited here last weekend with Mr. and Mrs. John Mollahan. The Mollahans recently moved to Portland from San Carlos, Calif., where he is deputy in the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department.

Clair Cox Here

Clair H. Cox of Corvallis spent the weekend here with his folks, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Cox and other relatives.

Mrs. A. H. Marick of Lone has been working in the store at Cecil since the arrival of her grandson to her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Lancaster.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ye Editors:

On Sunday I had chicken and dumplings just like my mother used to make. This was down at "Grandma's Table", just out of Beaverton on Hall Blvd. and Denny Road.

First there was chicken soup brought on in a tiny cast iron kettle from which you did the ladling; next salad, good dressings; next a tureen of chicken and freshly made dumplings all swimming in chicken gravy; all served family style.

There is also broiled salmon and broiled tenderloin steak.

Hazel Westcott and I went down after attending our separate churches, hers is Disciples of Christ and mine, Trinity Episcopal.

I had heard of this once from Opal Ayers McLaughlin of Beaverton, who said how interesting it is and how good the food. Opal is a former Heppner and Hardman resident.

The decor in the lobby is most interesting; full of antiques. There was the most beautiful inlaid organ (old fashioned one), I have ever seen. There were old fashioned floor lamps with wide fringes which looked like the ones Mrs. W. P. Mahoney used to paint and give to each of us. Our display was old tin washboards; slop jars; spinning wheel; coffee grinder; old fashioned upholstered furniture in bright blue and so on. It is a place worth seeing.

I thought this might interest you.

Sincerely,
Josephine Mahoney Baker
Tel. 226-4911
Portland 97201

Dear Editors:

I am quite honored and thrilled to receive a letter from Governor Tom McCall. I wrote him recently praising him for his decision and action regarding the protection of Nehalem Bay and our estuarine waters. In appreciation of my letter he graciously answered me and enclosed a copy of the "Executive Order Protecting Oregon's Coast." It is well past time to preserve what few things are left of the mountains and coastline in our beloved and beautiful state.

Very truly yours,
Josephine Mahoney Baker
Portland 97201

March 7, 1970

My word:

A letter from Ruth Payne in Pendleton — and after all of these long years. She says she is still working but as soon as the weather gets warmer she will again work in her flower garden.

Ruth also said she does enjoy my literary efforts in Ye Gazette-Times—made her think of the "good old days" when "we romped Main street," she writing the daily facts for the Walla Walla Union Bulletin and I "covering the Waterfront" for Ye East Oregonian.

She added that she hasn't adjusted to the "lonely house" since her husband, Jesse's death. And I did not even know it. I have no excuse except that I lived away for so long and did not see the "home town" paper until lately and then "duty called" ad I began a barrage of seeing and hearing from people and telling it like it is and as a result of this Ruth wrote. I'm glad. Jesse used to be at Camp Heppner.

She also sees Cecelia Robison, Nee Cecilia Carty, formerly from the Tub Springs area in the Sand Country in Morrow County. This has to be one of the charming daughters of Jim Carty (bless him).

Many the time my folks, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Richardson, and

party landed in at the Carty ranch unfed and starved after being sunk down in sand pits a few times. No matter when, Mr. and Mrs. Carty gathered up eggs and what have you and in no time a bounteous repast was on the table for the hungry pilgrims (or something). Memories. Wonderful. Old friends.

Josephine Mahoney Baker
Portland 97201

P.S. Spring must be here. Out at Market today I purchased a huge loaf of hot homemade Sourdough Bread (which I frugally divided with a few neighbors who knew I had it). Hope I haven't eaten too much. Good.

My Dad, W. A. Richardson used to make sourdough pone bread and cook it over the campfire. Also I bought a red Primrose and planted it down where I can see it. I did it between showers. Ho hum.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heard:

One thing I will remember forever is the friendliness of the people in Heppner. I felt as though I had come home and everyone was glad to see me. Don especially noticed it when some pleasant man driving by in a car waved at us. Everybody — you people at the Gazette, the lady who cooked our wonderful steak dinner at the hotel and makes the best apple pie we ever ate, the VanWinkles at the motel.

Please give Heppner our love!

I hope we can come back again just for the joy of being there and feeling I have sort of belonged ever since that night in 1900 when I was picked up in somebody's arms and carried aboard the train for Puyallup where my father must have bought the Puyallup Commerce.

I am writing Brant Duecy who did all the research and got his master's degree on the life of my father, John W. Redington and if it is all right with him I will photograph some of the most colorful pages from his thesis about my father and send them to you. I wrote my two sisters in California from your post office there so they would be surprised when they received a Heppner postmark.

They both went to school there around 1900, the same time Mr. Yeager was in school. I also must have been in the peer group of Mr. Anderson Hayes whom we met at the hotel.

We are glad we subscribed for the Gazette; enjoyed the first issue which we received soon after getting home. Of course, being human, we enjoyed the article you wrote about our visit and about my father who really lived right in the middle of Heppner life of the eighties.

Please thank all the people of Heppner for making us feel so welcome.

Dan & Betty Stewart
(Elizabeth Meacham Redington)

Potent letter on "GB" by Mrs.

Louis Winchester should go on AP or UP. Amen! ERS

March 16

To the Editor:

I too, agree with Dr. McMurdo, that Judge John Kilkenny will be a good speaker for the Heppner High School Graduation exercises. However, he gave the credit to the wrong party. The Senior class did the choosing and asking instead of the Heppner School Board.

Mary Ann Peck

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Come in soon.

REMEMBER THIS? . . .

.... REMINISCE!

FIFTY YEARS AGO

March 18, 1920

Marin Reid, local dealer for the Garford trucks, won second prize in the nationwide photograph contest recently conducted by the Garford Motor Truck Co. The photograph submitted showed 2 local Garfords loaded with wool on their way to the warehouse.

Fire destroyed the main sections of the lumber yard of Mrs. Rebecca Penland in Heppner; her daughter Miss Stella and Dr. W. C. Dye of Salt Lake City, Utah, were quietly united in marriage by A. L. Corbett.

Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Bayless observed their 20th wedding anniversary last Sunday by inviting a number of friends to partake of a bounteous luncheon.

Births listed for the week: Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Letterman, a son; Mr. and Mrs. John Healy, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Adam Blahm, a daughter.

A large number of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and their invited guests observed St. Patrick's Day in a fitting manner on Wednesday. The banquet in Odd Fellows hall at 6:00 was the big feature of the day, when nearly two hundred people partook of an excellent dinner.

Thursday evening, at the home of Mrs. Rebecca Penland in Heppner; her daughter Miss Stella and Dr. W. C. Dye of Salt Lake City, Utah, were quietly united in marriage by A. L. Corbett.

Final citizenship papers were given to Catherine Doherty, Alfred H. Nelson, Julian Rauch, Alexander Brander, Adolph Majeske, and James Mollahan by Judge G. W. Phelps.

Mrs. Mary Andreassen of Eugene, a sister of Pete's, has been here for a visit with the McMurdo's.



THE MALE QUARTET and Girls' Trio from Northwest Christian College will participate in a Youth Rally held at the First Christian Church, Heppner, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21. All interested persons are invited to attend this concert of Gospel Songs, Folk Songs, Anthems and Spirituals. They will also take part on Sunday, March 22, in the 9:00 a.m. worship service of the First Christian Church and the 11:00 a.m. worship service of the Church of Christ, Lexington. There will be a potluck dinner Sunday noon at the Heppner Church house. There will be one of the faculty members of the college accompanying the singers.

CHUCK WAGON

We were awakened before dawn on St. Patrick's Day by the trills of some musical birds. Couldn't go back to sleep so for some reason the birds' songs had started me doing some imagining.

You know, what a grand thing it would be to round up three or four bands, lots of high stepping pretty girls (they're all pretty in Morrow County), ladies' clubs and organizations, lodges and other groups stepping right along, two by two's, three by three's and four by fours, some dancing, prancing horse clubs, all decked out in green. Perhaps a float or two, lots of smiles and laughter. What more could we want on the morning of St. Patrick's Day and where more appropriate than right here in Heppner? (Don't you think that would be a real Happening?)

Feller told me the real test of will power is to have the same ailment someone is describing—and not mention it!

Our thanks to Harold Kerr for helping out Saturday night. After a very nice potluck dinner at Lexington Grange, Harold showed a movie in color on Our Good Earth, a film narrated by Chet Huntley portraying Oregon's diversified agriculture.

A saintly-looking old fellow was trying to catch his bus. Just as he appeared to be winning the race, the bus driver, with a fiendish smirk, pulled away from the curb and the wheels splashed a shower of muddy water over the old man.

Softly, this kindly one murmured, "May his soul find peace." Still more softly he added, "And the sooner the better."

If our car gets much older, the long-suffering motorist declared, "they'll start issuing it upper and lower plates."

Voice on phone, "Weather bureau? How about a shower tonight?"

Forecaster: "You don't need to ask me. If you need one, take it."</p