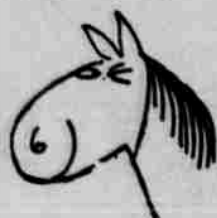


Horse sense

By

ERNEST V. JOINER



● Larry Mills, affable manager of Morrow County Grain Growers, is wearing a red face these days, and avoiding his kidding friends. And his bosses are undecided whether to have Larry teach a course in tractor sales and repair or enroll him in such a school as a student. It started a while back when an MCGG customer brought in a tractor for repair. When the customer came back for his tractor, it was gone. Larry discovered to his horror that he had sold it by mistake to a wholesale tractor dealer in Portland, who in turn had sold it at auction. I don't know why, but Larry's predicament reminds me of the story about an English soldier's night on the town during the London blitz in World War II. This Englishman was telling his friends how he started out to make all the bars and have himself a wild evening, complete with female companionship, but had made an inexcusable and embarrassing mistake. "What happened," he confided, "is that between the fog and the grog I picked up an old maid aunt of mine!"

● Another painful embarrassment was suffered last week by Steve Walker, who lives on the Greener place near Anson Wright Park. According to Steve, he was drinking in the beauty of a freshening springtime. According to one of his close friends, he was bent on poaching a deer. Anyway, in his exuberance or heat of the chase, as the case may be, he leaped a barbed wire fence and broke a bone in his leg when he landed on the other side. He is temporarily laid up, hoping for visitors, get-well cards—and maybe a haunch of venison from a sympathetic game warden.

● Lawyers, like a lot of other professional people, have progressed in their trade to the point where it has become unethical for them to advertise their services. They make a great case of not advertising on ethical grounds. But the August issue of the Oregon State Bar Bulletin, a slick magazine for "the trade," has an interesting item on page 19. It reads: "Patronize Our Advertisers." Whoops!

● Still on the subject of advertising, a good newspaper is essential to any good town. The only way Heppner can have a good newspaper is to support it with advertising. Although the merits of advertising are well established as a principle of good business, there are still businessmen who sincerely believe that advertising is an unnecessary expense because, as one Heppner store owner remarked recently, "Everybody knows where I am and what I'm selling, so why should I advertise?" Well, maybe he shouldn't. Perhaps he should also tell his minister to preach only one sermon a year because everybody knows where the church is, everybody's against sin, so why harp on it? Why not pull up all our traffic stop signs, everybody knows where the intersections are and that they should drive carefully. Every member knows when and where the chamber of commerce meets, so why wake up the whole town with the blast of the fire siren each Monday noon? Perhaps teachers shouldn't review their lessons—just tell the children once and they'll never forget! A couple of years ago I visited the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, which has stood for six centuries. Everybody in Paris knows where it is. Just about every literate person in the world knows where it is. Everybody knows the type of goods being sold inside those hallowed halls. But a man is still hired to ring the bells of Notre Dame every day to let the people know Notre Dame still stands in the same place, offering the same services it has dispensed through six centuries!

● The Elks Club sponsors an Easter Egg Hunt at Heppner City Park each year, and each year mothers are driven to distraction by the number of uninhibited dogs that leave their deposits in all the places Easter eggs are apt to be found by the children. As a result, children come up with some pretty messy Easter eggs in their little baskets, and a lot of which rubs off on new Easter frocks that take the fun out of going to church. A representative of concerned mothers has asked me to issue an appeal to dog owners in vicinity of the park to please corral their dogs from now until Easter morning, or diaper them until the egg hunt ritual has been concluded.

● The CowBelles did a grand job of putting on last week's Mini Beef-A-Rama. Any time an event can attract 200 women, all at the same time, some kind of genius is indicated. If such functions continue with the same success, there's bound to be another beef shortage in Oregon. Which reminds me of the definition of a CowBelle as vouchsafed by an Arizona group. A CowBelle looks like a girl, acts like a lady, thinks like a man, works like a horse!

● Then there was the Women's Libber who stopped going to church because the congregation kept singing hymns, not hers.

● The Gazette-Times would like to raise a question regarding Councilman Warren Plocharsky's application for a building permit which was approved by the city council Monday night. We have a copy of Mr. Plocharsky's application. He lists himself as the owner of record of 6.5 acres of land adjoining the Rasmussen-Lott property off Water Street. We checked the ownership records and found that he is not the owner of record; in fact, the owners are Frank Rasmussen and Randy Lott. In a similar incident, Randy Lott applied for a building permit on Lot 1, Blk. 2 of Rasmussen-Lott Addition No. 2 on Nov. 3, 1973. The permit was refused because of the lack of sufficient water in that area. On March 1, 1974, Plocharsky applied for a building permit on the same lot—Lot 1, Blk. 2 of Rasmussen-Lott Addition No. 2, listing himself as owner of record. We find he was not the owner of record. Rasmussen-Lott is. The permit was again denied. But we are curious as to how Plocharsky can file the building permits on property that belongs to someone else, and do it while he is acting in his capacity as a city councilman. If an official application for a building permit asks for the name of the recorded owner, can a name other than the recorded owner be legally inserted? If it is not legal to misrepresent the name of the recorded owner on the application, should the permit be granted? Or, if Mr. Plocharsky is acting in behalf of Mr. Lott, shouldn't that be disclosed on the application? And if Mr. Plocharsky is, by some chance, acting in behalf of a subdivider at the same time he is sitting as a councilman and charged with the responsibility of issuing permits in accordance with the law, does he have a conflict of interest here? to his credit, he did not vote on the permit application Monday night. We would like to hear from Mr. Plocharsky and the council on the matter of misrepresenting recorded ownership of property in the filing of applications for building permits.



April 15th Streaker

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

It is my understanding that personal property taxes are paid on a fiscal basis, July 1, 1972 to July 1, 1973. I saw a Notice of Service of Personal Property Tax Warrants in your paper which included one in my name. My personal property taxes were paid up to July 1, 1972, and since I disposed of all personal property and moved to Umatilla County before July 1, 1972 it is a little difficult to understand how I could owe taxes in Morrow County. Someone's pencil may have slipped. We enjoy your paper.

MELVIN PIPER,
Fairview, Ore.

ED. NOTE—Thanks. Your letter has been turned over to the tax collector to find out whose pencil slipped.

EDITOR:

It's about time your readers had their nagging suspicions confirmed. Your so-called reporter, "Reverend" Lester Kinsolving, is regarded, even scorned, by his own journalistic colleagues as a tasteless and infantile embarrassment. Please let me share with your readers the following excerpt from the March 11, 1974 editorial pages of the San Francisco Examiner:

"Lester Kinsolving, an Episcopal priest from San Francisco at one time, who writes on religion, has become something of a minor gadfly in Washington. His screeching shouts of 'Mr. President! Mr. President!' at one Nixon press conference so angered the respected columnist John Osborne of the New Republic, that Osborne turned scornfully and said: 'Shut up, you bawling jackass!'"

The San Francisco Examiner knows the jackass of which it speaks. Kinsolving was its religious editor, then simply one of its columnists, and now mercifully for those with a sense of truth, it's "has-been." A lot of innocent people have had their reputations cruelly destroyed by Kinsolving. He betrays his high journalistic trust under the Canons of Ethics by writing personal vendettas and twisting everything.

You've given Kinsolving his chance. Hiding behind title and collar, he has still clearly cheapened your newspaper. Why not follow the example of the Examiner and drop him?

THOMAS ADAMS,
Daily City, Ca.

EDITOR:

This being the first "bomb threat" in Heppner, I must commend our hospital personnel, police, fire department, search & rescue, civil defense, EMT's and volunteers for the smooth evacuation of Pioneer Memorial Hospital without serious incident. Also family and friends that took so many of our patients into their homes.

It was this beautiful cooperation of so many that made a horrible threat like this bearable, not understandable, but without tragedy.

Special thanks to Father O'Brien for the Catholic Parish Hall which made a first rate evacuation center. Also to Rev. Edwin Cutting and Father Blackhall for their help with the patients, the R & W Drive-In for dropping everything to prepare food ordered by Father O'Brien for the personnel that were caring for the patients, and the Altar Society for serving it.

The patients came through with flying colors, some were a little agitated and couldn't quite comprehend why they had to be moved, but when it was all over they found they had actually enjoyed themselves and some even felt they had had a party.

ILENE WYMAN,
Administrator.

Martial law in Copperfield

Oregon's 14th governor, Governor Oswald West, was a prohibitionist who disliked mixing rum and public office.

While he was never able to carry out what he once quipped was an early ambition of his—"to shoot a bartender"—he did manage to make things pretty rough on the liquor industry.

Illegal sale of liquor was probably the most prevalent crime of Governor West's administration. And probably the wildest, most lawless town in Oregon's history was Copperfield, a dying desert town in Baker County. Copperfield's entire population consisted of nearly two thousand miners and construction workers who crowded into the busy saloons to spend their hard earned money on drink and gambling.

Copperfield had been incorporated as a town in 1909. In a dubious municipal election a saloon keeper, H.A. Stewart, was elected mayor. Two of the three councilmen were bartenders. Their first order of business was to issue liquor licenses—to themselves. Townsmen bragged that there had never been an arrest made in Copperfield. Not because crimes weren't committed, but because no lawman was ever able to transport a prisoner the 150 miles to Baker, the county seat.

Finally in 1914 Governor West responded to reports that the lawless joints in Copperfield had gotten completely out of hand. He sent the 6-foot, 6-inch, 200-pound sheriff of Baker, Ed Rand, to clean up the town. But even Big Ed wasn't man enough for the job.

Not one to accept defeat, Governor West ordered Lt. Col. B.K. Lawson and five national guardsmen to proceed to Copperfield. And to make sure his orders were carried out he sent his personal secretary, the gritty Miss Fern Hobbs, who was 25 years old and weighed exactly 104 pounds.

Miss Hobbs marched straight into that town and called a public meeting to be held in the dance hall. She stood on a platform, before the entire town looking rather demure in a stylish blue suit trimmed with black lynx muff and neckpiece. Two nile green feathers on her black hat sat rakishly to one side.

Crossroads Report

DEAR EDITOR:

I see where numerous congressmen recently have been screaming about "wind-fall profits" allegedly being made by people in the oil business.

+++

My figuring neighbor says many people are getting more for their work and services these days, especially now that money tends to buy less.

+++

But he figures something had ought to be done, also, about congressmen-type people, who now get 425 per cent more base pay than they once did, which puts them away out ahead of the oil price increases in the profiteering league.

D.E. SCOTT,
Crossroads, U.S.A.

Susan L. Harrison, Heppner, is among 1974 first semester graduates at Washington State University. She received a B.A. degree in English.

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

The farm journals is saying that more folks than ever afore is tending gardens this spring. Groceries costing what they are and are going to, it makes a heap of sense to grow what we can to eat.

But the more sense a home garden patch makes and the more it looks like folks actual might cut down on their food cost with em, the more worried I git about the Government gitting into gardening.

Fer shore, Mister Editor, if some economic egghead in Washington stops to think that a tomatar raised at home and eat at home is a tomatar not under price controls and USDA inspection, he is going to demand some fast action fer the good of the country.

That tomatar is outside the normal food chain, it don't git picked by the labor force under NLRB guidelines, it ain't hauled nowhere in a truck, it don't add nothing to the economy with a wholesale-retail markup and nobody rings it up in the sales tax column of the checkout cash register.

That is a bootleg tomatar, and if everybody was to start raising and eating their own tomatars, what would come of the established tomatar industry?

In order to be shore of keeping what the economists might call a marketable stability in the vegetable supply and demand balance, the Government that is in charge of looking out fer the country can't let folks go around growing and eating non-taxpaid tomatars. If we let the tomatar growers get away with bypassing the cash register, the potater and bean growers will foller the bad example, and the next thing you know folks will get the idee they can raise their own meat and eggs. If we don't act quick, these home gardens will have the hole food processing and marketing industry in a uproar.

I figger the first step will be a press conference where somebody in a high place in Government will swear that the Administration is going to avoid licensing farmers.

But while the problem is being attacked from other angles, such as rationing garden seed and fertilizer and setting up no-weekend plowing regulations, a supply of farming licenses is being printed up jest in case.

Pervided that people with gardens will volenteery foller suggestions agin canning and freezing what they grow, the market probable can catch up in the fall and winter what it loses in the growing seasons.

To help folks do this of their own will, the USDA will have to put on 3,000 new inspectors to control the sale of jars and freezer bags, and to make shore nobody has more than two days supply of home-grown food on hand at any time.

Final, Mister Editor, the country will come around to the thinking that it don't make no more sense fer a doctor to farm than fer a farmer to do surgery, so holding farming tests and issuing licenses to farm is the only way to perfect our food supply.

Yours truly,

MAYOR ROY.



Bearing witness

BY
LESTER KINSOLVING

Senator Hubert Humphrey almost certainly expressed the mind of the U.S. Senate when, referring to Senator Harold Hughes (D-Iowa), he recently told his colleagues:

"He need take no back seat to anyone in his dedication to good deeds, and in his deep concern for human kind."

Iowa's senior senator and former governor will leave the senate in December in order to devote his life to a non-denominational lay ministry. Senator Humphrey's tribute came immediately after Hughes had pleaded with his fellow senators:

"For God's sake, let's not be hypocrites about what we are doing. If we want to execute people then do it in the open."

If the death penalty is to be a deterrent, the more people who see the execution, are offended by it and know that if they ever commit a similar crime they are subject to a similar penalty, the better. This amendment I think will offer a way for the death penalty to be a more effective deterrent to capital crime -- if in fact it is a deterrent at all."

Hughes' proposed amendment directed the United States Marshal to "utilize such communication facilities, including radio and television, as may be necessary to assure the widest possible exposure of such executions at a time most likely to provide such exposure."

Florida's Senator Lawton Chiles was shocked by this amendment. "A very serious and a very dangerous thing to be shown to children. It is something they are not equipped to handle." (That very evening network television showed in prime time the superb but ghastly "Execution of Private Slovik.")

So Chiles, and 80 of his fellow senators, voted against the Hughes anti-concealed-deterrent amendment, which was supported by only 10 senators. Earlier in the day, all 87 senators present had voted in favor of Senator James Buckley's (Conservative-New York) amendment to prohibit execution of any expectant mothers.

While Hughes did not vote against this limited abolition amendment, his questioning of the New York conservative produced a rather devastating exposure of Buckley, who is a devotee of the death penalty: "If a woman was pregnant awaiting execution and the baby was born prior to the date of the execution would the woman then be executed?"

Buckley: "She would then be executed."

Hughes: "Is there any provision for the mother to nurse the baby for any period of time, say 30-60 days or six months before the execution?"

Buckley: "No, but I assume the competent officials would have the humane good sense to do the right thing under those circumstances."

Senator Buckley's amendment does not explain whether a humane official could wait until the child is weaned before executing the mother or whether it would be cruel and unusual punishment to gas, shoot, electrocute or hang the mother immediately after the umbilical cord is snapped. (When Deputy White House Press Secretary Gerald Warren was asked about this, he angrily replied: "Take your question to the senate!")

Senator Hughes is leaving the senate to devote his life to the service and worship of a victim of capital punishment -- whose crime was regarded by authorities as worse than that of a murderer named Barabbas. The Iowa senator was no more initially successful in this opposition to state-sanctioned homicide than was another devout Christian political leader named William Wilburforce, at the beginning of what was to be a 20-year campaign to abolish the slave trade.

But Jesus Christ neither demanded nor promised his disciples instant success -- only that they bear witness, as Harold Hughes has done in the Senate of the United States.

Another tax hike

The Workmen's Compensation Board has announced that assessments on employers and workers will be increased beginning April 1.

The April 1 increase will make the total daily assessment for Oregon employers 6 cents for each worker employed or \$1.32 a month for salaried employees. Each worker's assessment will be raised on April 1 to 8 cents for each day worked, or \$1.76 a month.

The additional money will be used to implement action of the 1974 special session of the Oregon legislature which gave significant retroactive benefit increases to previously injured workers or their beneficiaries.

CORRECTION

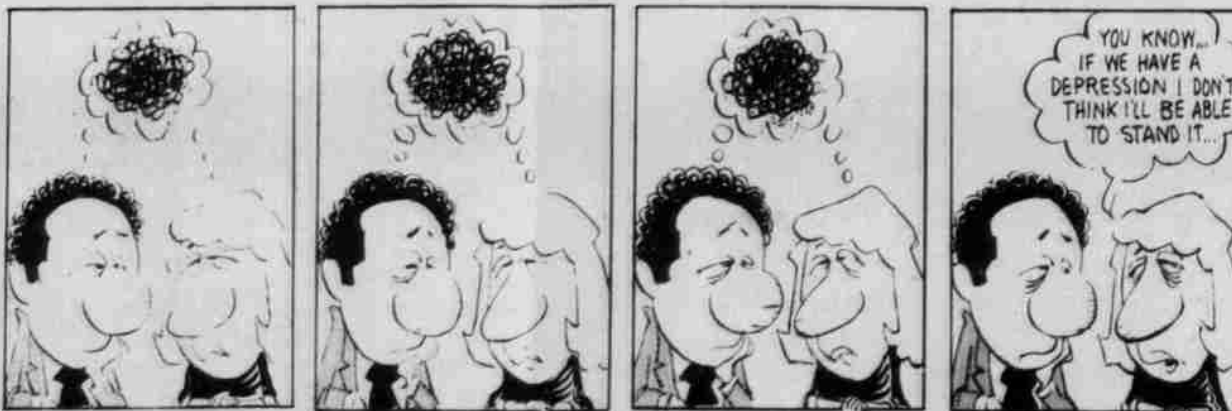
Loréne Griffith was elected last week to the Ione School Advisory Committee. She was unopposed from the Cecil School District.

Gene Rietmann, incumbent, defeated Jerry McElligott for the school advisory committee in the Ione School District.

The Gazette-Times inadvertently combined the two districts in publishing the election results last Thursday.

BOYD and WOOD

the SOVEREIGN STATE of AFFAIRS



THE GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Ernest V. Joiner, Publisher

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