

Horse sense

By ERNEST V. JOHNER



When food prices go up the people are prone to blame it on high costs of shipping in food from long distances. Feeling that long distances had little to do with food prices, Publisher James G. Westover of the Pendleton Record took a walk through a grocery store last week. He found potatoes at 25 cents a pound, onions, 20 cents per pound, apples, 20 cents a pound, dry beans, \$1 a pound, and bananas, 4 cents per pound. The 29 cent potatoes had less than 50 miles to travel from the Boardman-Sierstetter area. The onions came from nearby Walla Walla, apples from Hood River and Yakima areas, dried beans from the Willamette Valley or Boise area—but the bananas at 4 cents a pound all the way from Central America? I have always wondered how bananas can be picked in the steaming jungles of Central America, shipped in special cargo ships, ripened in expensive warehouses in New Orleans, then shipped thousands of miles away and sold for 4 cents a pound. And United Fruit Company gets rich doing it? There's something else about the non-ordinary aspects of the banana. While other food costs have risen several hundred per cent the banana is selling today at the price it was sold for in stores all over America 20 years ago. I was buying bananas in Texas 20 years ago for 20 cents a pound. Still can. Then you take a lively potato 40 miles from where it was grown and sell it for three times the retail price of a pound of bananas hauled 4,000 miles. How come?

There was an interesting argument in Judge Henry Kay's circuit court here last week in a case that involved horse stealing. The attorney for the defendant was attempting to get the charges against his client reduced to a misdemeanor. Oregon law says the stealing of livestock, regardless of their cash value, is a felony. All other thefts under a value of \$200 is classified as misdemeanor, thefts over \$200 are felonies. Only one cent separates a misdemeanor from a felony in ordinary theft cases. The lawyer argued that in Oregon a man can steal a \$100 calf and stand trial on a felony charge, but the same man could burglar a butcher shop and steal \$199.99 worth of the same hunched calf and be tried on a misdemeanor charge, not a felony. He cited Oregon law—ORS 164.055, Ch. 416, Sec. 1, Sub-sec. 1(a) which states that such a situation "creates an unreasonable classification among people engaged in the occupation of theft." While Judge Kay didn't buy the argument, it was interesting to learn that the State of Oregon has by statute officially recognized theft as an occupation!

Sam G. McMillan, a well-known personage in this area and one of the "old timers," is about to publish a book on the history of Lexington. I have read the manuscript, and it is a delightful departure from the regular "history" books we see so often. While it is designed primarily for Lexingtonians on their upcoming 100th birthday celebration, it should have wide appeal. How many people here know that Lexington once had a real, honest-to-goodness French countess? Or read the hilarious poem published in the Lexington newspaper at the time Lexington and Heppner were locked in a "to the death" battle for the courthouse, titled "Der Heppner Gang"? The book is done in narrative style and by a man who knows how to tell a story. I don't know the publication date, but it should be off the press in six months. It'll be worth waiting for.

In my native Texas, North Texas State University has hired an ex-convict who was a drug offender to counsel students. For \$12,700 a year. He is B.F. Main, and he says he is a poet. His job, he says, is to "inspire. I will function as a reference person, as a model and as a teacher through poetry and through my ideas and concepts." "Inspire what? What's a reference person? Model of what? Teaching through his own ideas and concepts? Isn't that what the Synthesizer Liberation Army does? The Devil does it, too. The idiot who hired this Leavenworth alum with teaching credentials from the Federal Correctional Institution at Fort Worth told reporters Main was hired to "add a new dimension of talent to the university." Bully. Why not add another dimension of talent by engaging a convicted safecracker, a bank robber and a hit-man who can handle a submachine gun while reciting poetry? The college could get a great new dimension of talent by putting a convicted prostitute on the payroll to counsel girls on advanced mathematics through her own ideas and concepts. I guess I got out of Texas just in time!

The other day I saw this ad in a Santa Rosa, Cal., newspaper, in which a pair of bird lovers notified all their feathered friends of their change of address.

PUBLIC NOTICE A-1
For all birds who have been dining at Walter B. Saling and Betty E. Saling for the last 2 years at 2308 Heffli Place, Santa Rosa.
We are moving to: 1726 Austin Way on April 2nd. Thereafter, even finer cuisine will be served for the next 20 years.
No pigeons need apply.
Sincerely, WBS & BGS

DULY NOTED—Jim Farley isn't a man to let a car deal get away. The other day he took a dozen cows and calves as payment for a pickup. Anyone wanting to own a dozen cows and calves are invited to see him before he also gets into the milk and butter business. . . . Cannon Beach, Ore., is the only town I know where motorists can pay for traffic violations with their BankAmericards. Why other police departments don't offer this convenience remains a mystery. . . . Bill Collins is an optimist. He has written the Internal Revenue Service to take his name off its mailing list. . . . Taking a bath can be noisy. Manuel Valderrama is a beggar in Lima, Peru, who decided to retire after 32 years on the job. To celebrate, he took his first bath in many years in a public fountain, and a thief stole his pants along with his lifetime beggings, \$18,000.



"We'd prefer to take it without your permission!"

Ullmarc 'Navy has commitment'

The Navy has made a firm commitment to move its practice bombing range from the Boardman area, Cong. Al Ullmarc said in Klamath Falls Friday and reiterated the statement at a meeting of Morrow County citizens in Boardman Monday.

Last month the Navy announced plans to move from its 50,000-acre practice site in Oregon and to seek a new bombing range in Douglas County, Wash. Both Sens. Henry Jackson and Warren Magnuson, D-Wash., and Cong. Mike McCormack, D-Wash., announced their opposition to the Washington site last week.

Navy Secretary Jack Bowers today that he considers the Navy's commitment a firm one, and that the Navy may have to initiate another review of alternate sites for the bombing range.

"The boardman area is on the verge of a long-needed industrial and agricultural expansion, and to fireclose much higher land use for 50,000 acres in that area would be foolish," Ullmarc said.

He noted that long-range agricultural plans for the area include the use of heated water from Portland General Electric's proposed nuclear power plant which, according to a ruling by Oregon's Nuclear and Thermal Energy Council, cannot be built if the Navy continues to use its Boardman bombing range.

Portland General Electric has indicated it must begin construction of the plant in the near future if it expects to have generating capacity on line by 1981.

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Clem Webster got to speaking in parables again at the country store Saturday night, and alone the fellers could get him calmed down they had give the U.S. Department of Agriculture a solid vote of no confidence.

They was full agreed that Secretary Burt has got the right name, cause afore he's thru his export program is going to make the hole country the but of a bad joke about the more food you grow the hungrier you get.

Clem's parable was took from the Book of Wunt. He said President Hoover was riding thru the country one day, and he spied a boy perched on a rail fence having a lunch of cold biscuits and spring water. The President pulled his driver over, walked over to the boy and introduced himself.

"Son," Mr. Hoover said, "you have no idee how I yearn for the simple life of youth. How I wish I had your appetite."

"Wal, sir, I reckon you might as well take it," the boy said, "you've took everthing else and I ain't got much use fer a appetite nohow."

Democrat Clem said he first thought we now have moved out of a time of want into the Golden Age of Government by Crook and Crisis, but from the way the USDA is acting it looks like food shortages is official policy.

Clem had saw a report where we are sending more food overseas now than any time since World War II. The wheat sale to Russia was just a test case for this new policy, Clem allowed. In the past years we exported \$20 billion worth of farm product, Clem reported, and the year afore was only \$8 billion.

Natural, Republican Ed Doolittle demanded equal time. Ed told the fellers that farmers and ranchers in this country grow more than three times what folks can eat, and it makes good business to sell what we don't need to other countries to help our balance of payments. And Ed had saw where one recent month, for the first time in recent history, we sold more than we bought overseas.

Furthermore, allowed Ed, we could blackmail the world with food, like the Arabs did us with oil, but we're to good hearted to do it.

General speaking, the fellers sided with Clem. It were Zeke Grubb that allowed he was agreed with the politician he heard say that if a economy weren't working at the gas pump and the grocery store, it weren't working.

As for balance of payments, Zeke said he didn't know the world market price of nothing, but by the time he pays his light bill ever month it takes the balance of what he's got to keep someone on the table. Clem said it must be the Administration wants a national balance where what a feller gets paid is balanced by what he pays to eat.

Personal, Mister Editor, after hearing the fellers I'm convinced that a army ain't the only thing that runs on their stomach. The belly issue it tips with voters.

Yours truly,
MAYOR BOY.

Crossroads Report

DEAR EDITOR:

I see where congress has passed a law to make employer types pay higher minimum wages, but has made no provisions for furnishing the money for same.

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Which is on par with the politicians habit of imposing higher and higher taxes and leaving it up to us taxpayers to worry about where to get this extra money.

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And no proposal has ever been made in congress to pass a minimum work law, to command that all employees be worth \$2.30 per hour.

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

Teachers Red Cross to aid tornado victims

(Continued from Page 1)

A.C. Houghton school is equally high. Dr. Harold Huber and Dr. L.D. Tibbles have gone on record as recommending the program.

Board members Rauch and Sumner were appointed to assist Jim Buer in looking for a diesel bus to replace the Heppner High diesel bus. Bids for a 12-passenger panel will be advertised and opened in May.

Maureen McElligan was hired by the board as life-guard for the lone swimming pool for the summer.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, May 20, at the district office in Lexington, beginning at 8 p.m.

Red Cross chapters throughout the United States are accepting special disaster fund contributions to help finance relief in tornado stricken states.

More than 300 persons have been reported killed, many thousands injured and home destruction is mounting into thousands of dollars. Red Cross disaster volunteers and staff in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan have opened shelters for the homeless and rushed mobile disaster vans into stricken communities. The operation has reached towns and cities in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Oklahoma.

After the worst tornado reported since March, 1925, more than 800 Red Cross disaster workers and nurses are laboring to aid the homeless and injured. Other Red Cross relief specialists and disaster equipment from all over the country have moved into the stricken states.

In this area, contributions should be sent to Judy Laughlin, treasurer, Morrow County Red Cross chapter, in care of Heppner TV, Heppner.

Council

(Continued from Page 1)

Boyer, with Warren Plocharsky abstaining.

Preceding the conditional hearing for the conditional use permit, a special meeting was held by the council to open bids for the construction of Well 3 and related well house improvements.

Claude C. Nouse, Cottage Grove, Ore., was the only bidder on the project with a bid of \$61,000. The engineer's estimate for the proposed work was not to exceed \$21,000. The bid will be taken under advisement and the contractor will be notified of council action within 30 days.

Mayor Jerry Sweeney mentioned that the federal flood insurance program had been accepted by the city, however, a resolution would have to be accepted prior to sending in the application for the permit. Clyde Allison entertained a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Bob Jones. The motion failed to pass although the vote was 3 to 1 for passage with one abstention.

Councilman Bedman was absent during the voting, and according to the city charter all council members must be present to adopt any new resolution or ordinance.

The request for city water outside the city limits to supply a proposed supermarket was postponed until a later meeting.

A special meeting of the common council has been scheduled for Monday, April 22, at 7 p.m.



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BOYD and WOOD



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Ernest V. Johner, Publisher

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