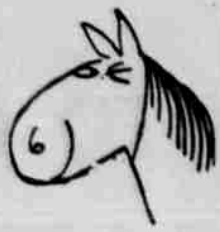


# Horse sense

By ERNEST V. JOINER



● Heppner's city charter makes for interesting reading, but living by it is impossible. So the city doesn't govern itself according to its own charter, and small wonder: It was adopted Dec. 20, 1918, and is outdated, outmoded and outrageous. For example, the charter designates Bill Weatherford's "wash house" as an "offensive" business and occupation! It provides for the punishment of people who smoke opium, but says nothing about grass or heroin. It requires the common council to suppress places where fornication is practiced, which could lead to closing private bedrooms in our homes and play havoc with motel and hotel rooms. Fortunately, it provides for the safe driving of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and other livestock through the city streets.

● It isn't all bad, however. The charter protects people from injury resulting from runaway horses. We need that. It also forbids the city to incur any indebtedness in excess of \$30,000. We truly need that. It specifies that the chief of police is responsible for tearing down the burned-out buildings on Main Street. So why isn't Dean Gilman out there tearing out that ugly and dangerous brick and concrete with his bare hands? It also gives him the power to suppress riots, if he can find one. According to the charter the city's fiscal year begins Jan. 1 and ends Dec. 31. However, the city's fiscal year starts July 1 and ends June 30.

● Under the charter, we couldn't authorize those \$450,000 water improvement bonds. The charter says bonds must be issued in \$500 denominations, but bonding companies won't handle denominations less than \$1,000. Under the charter, bonds issued must mature in 10 years; nobody buys bonds unless they run at least 20 years. Under the charter, bonds must be paid for in U.S. gold coin, which means that nobody, not even the federal government, could buy them legally. The charter limits interest on bonds to 6 per cent—try selling 6 per cent bonds in a market where 12 per cent is the prime interest rate! The charter states that the city tax rate shall not exceed 15 mills on each dollar of assessed property valuation. That comes out to \$15 per \$1,000 valuation. But city tax rate for 1973-74 was, according to the assessor's office, \$27.49 per \$1,000 valuation.

● The city is inviting lawsuits by attempting to govern itself with a charter that became obsolete along with buttoned shoes and the horseless carriage. This is a possibility City Attorney Bob Abrams says he has lived with ever since he became the city's legal advisor. Let's take a hypothetical case. Let us say that Randy Lott is not satisfied with the ruling of the city planning commission in reference to his housing development, the Rasmussen-Lott Addition. He believes he can prove the commission's actions in his case has resulted in substantial monetary loss. Then he reads the charter and finds that the mayor of the city is by law chairman of every department, committee and commission created by the common council. Legally, he would be chairman of the planning commission, a place held by the very capable Randall Peterson. Would this render decisions of the planning commission void in that said commission is not constituted according to the charter? Would the city be responsible for losses incurred by Lott in attempting to secure city services in his subdivision? Will I get killed for even bringing up this possibility?

● The city council is preparing a new charter calculated to yank us into the 20th century. It will probably have to be voted upon by the people of Heppner. I sure recommend its adoption.

● After 24 years of debate, says the Rocky Mountain News of Denver for April 21, the United Nations Committee on the Definition of Aggression has finally agreed on a definition of "aggression." This definition takes 17 paragraphs. Mr. Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "aggression" in six lines. Aggression is, simply, an unprovoked attack. The UN couldn't stop there. It rambled on for pages, then ended with the words that makes it impossible for an act of aggression to ever exist as far as the UN is concerned. "Nothing in this definition," the product of 24 years of research reads, "could in any way prejudice the right to self-determination, freedom and independence of peoples forcibly deprived of that right, particularly peoples under colonial and racist regimes or other forms of alien domination." Alas, the News points out, "one lexicographer's aggression is another's war of liberation." With the qualifying sentence quoted above, the Symbion Liberation Army could attack the United States and not incur UN wrath because it could and would claim it was fighting for "self-determination, freedom and independence." The American Indian could attack the US, as it did at Wounded Knee, without UN retaliation on grounds they had been forcibly deprived of their right to self-determination. Under this definition of aggression, the Negro race could rise up and attack the US government with the UN's blessing, and if the US government resisted it would be named the aggressor. Mexico could attack us. So could Spain, the British Empire, France, and even the Russians, all without meeting the UN definition of aggressor. We did, you recall, oust Mexico, Spain, Great Britain, France and Russia from their bases in North America. But we needn't worry. If it took the Definition Committee 24 years to define aggression it should take another 24 years for the UN to adopt the committee's draft. By that time, hopefully, the Tower of Babel will have been crushed under the weight of its own bureaucracy and fallen into the Hudson River.

● The proposed federal budget for the coming year amounts to \$304 billion, \$4,031 for each household in the United States. Add another \$300 billion to be taken in state, county, city and special district taxes and the 1974-75 tax bite on each household in the U.S. averages \$8,000. Any family in Morrow County not paying \$8,000 in taxes next year, might properly be classified as "underprivileged."

● The grab bag: America's song writers aren't on the ball. Why hasn't one written The Ballad of Patty Hearst? Whenever I see one of those ads reading "Every body needs milk," I am reminded that man is the only animal that never gets weaned. . . . I know a sex maniac who kicked the habit. He moved next door to Women's Lib. . . . Those of you who attend the dance Saturday night at the Hardman Opry House and survive Old Joiner's Famous Texas Chili (to be served at midnight, appropriately) will be elated to know that the recipe for this scalding, gut-searing concoction may be had from me upon proper supplication. I warn you, this chili isn't easy to make, considering that tarantula juice, distilled rattlesnake venom and black widow spider milk aren't readily available at your friendly gourmet shop.



The ancient Arabs believed that eating the heart or liver of a serpent gave the power to read omens from birds.



J.E. The problem as I see it, Mr. President, is that we've been bitten by our own bug.

H. (Unintelligible)

P. (Expletive deleted)

## The mail pouch

EDITOR:

If Dr. Press is correct that the nebulous group known as the health commission has the authority to order fluoridation, then that group has a right I have lost.

When did this commission get this right? It must have been recently or, presumably, they would have used it before now. Since when does a group of unelected bureaucrats get rights granted to it without the knowledge of the people? If the people didn't transfer their right to this group, who did?

The pro-fluoridation argument that if you don't want to drink fluoridated water, then you can get your water elsewhere holds just as true for those who want to take fluoride. They can get a prescription for fluoride from the medical person of their choice. Dr. Press and his group are not the medical persons of my choice, and yet they are using force in their prescription.

There is something very odd in the Dr. Press logic: that is, when I go to a medical person of my choice and get an educated opinion as to what medication I should take along with a prescription, I hold the right of not taking that advice or medicine and that medical person cannot in anyway force me to do so. How, then, can Dr. Press and company force their opinion on me?

Surely, all the pro-fluoride people are not sitting around waiting for fluoridation in order to get the benefits of fluoride. So the people Dr. Press is after are those who haven't bought the small groups' educated opinion that fluoride is fantastic. Or, for whatever their reason, don't want fluoride.

The authority or right Dr. Press and group seem to possess is the right to force their opinion on those who hold a different opinion. Strangely, the anti-fluoridationists have the notion that they have a right to refuse treatment in non-contagious or non-communicable diseases. I wonder where that notion came from?

The issue at stake is freedom, not fewer cavities. If dental health is the main objective, then meticulous oral hygiene would net the desired results. But Dr. Press and his fellow people-planners consider the public to be nitwits! Why? Because the dental decay rate demonstrates we are unwilling to avail ourselves of good dental health. And, therefore, our oral misbehavior must be circumvented by fluoridation.

The suggestion that chlorination sets the precedent for fluoridation is false. However, the deliberate use of fluoridation for a non-contagious or non-communicable disease does set a precedent of using the water system for the mass treatment of people. After this precedent is firmly set, nothing that can be water carried "for the good of the people" could be denied access to this vehicle.

Dr. Press is correct about one thing: fluoridation is an emotion-packed issue. Fluoride, per se, does not stir emotions. But, couple it with force and run roughshod of freedom and you'll get people fighting mad. After all, we the people are the only ones who can preserve our liberty.

PAMELA WISE, Milwaukee.

EDITOR:

I wish to express my disappointment that you printed the name of an individual referred to the Mental Health Services by the court. I realize it may serve some purpose to print this as "news" and I also know that anyone who wants to know what may be considered a matter of public record could get the information anyway. However, I want you to know I simply don't like the names of my patients being put in the newspaper.

DAVID E. MITCHUM, MSW, Program Director, Mental Health Services.

## Others say . . .

Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz contends America will always be a good place to buy food products because: "We haven't learned yet on our farms how to goldbrick on the job. We haven't learned yet how to have two drivers in a tractor cab. We haven't learned yet to punch the clock at 40 hours. We haven't learned yet to go out to the cow and say, 'Look Bossy, I've got to be gone over the weekend. Let's shut her off for three days.' As long as we haven't learned these things, we're going to be a good source of food and fiber for all the peoples of the world."—Arizona Farm Bureau Federation.

## Crossroads Report

DEAR EDITOR:

Judging from radio and TV interviews with various celebrities and semi-celebrities, the most used words today are "you know."

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Usually shortened to "y'know," this word combo appears to be most useful to interviewees who can talk faster than they can think, possibly having had more experience in the former than in the latter.

+++

But, although this thinking-gap filler helps to keep a talker on-stage longer, it wastes the time of all listeners. If they already know, why bother to tell them?

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

## Notice

Those who would like to contribute to the Bill Gates Benefit Fund and cannot attend the benefit dance for him at Hardman Saturday night, can mail their donations to: Bill Gates Fund, Gazette-Times, Box 337, Heppner, Ore.



## Presbyterian

losses:

## North and South

By LESTER KINSOLVING

A new denomination, potentially the nation's fifth largest, may well be conceived next month in Louisville when two of the nation's largest Presbyterian bodies hold their national conventions concurrently.

Both the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (Southern) and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (Northern) are currently hurting.

The Southerners are still in shock over the massive exodus of some 250 of the denomination's more conservative local churches, with 60,000 members, who have now set themselves up as the National Presbyterian Church.

Before the remainder of these 900,000 sundered Southerners rebound themselves into the embrace (absorption) of the big denomination of North (2.9 million) they would do well to take a long, hard look at the top administration of the United Presbyterian Church—especially Stated Clerk (ranking executive) William P. Thompson, the "Wizard of Wichita." Dr. Thompson is an attorney and a parliamentary genius who is regarded as the godfather of COCU (or "Bill Thompson's Superchurch," as proposed merger of several Protestant denominations).

The Yankee Presbyterians are veritably lusty to absorb the Southerners—whose numerical addition could mightily obscure Northern membership losses—which, even without an organized schism, have been five times as great as the Southerners.

The Northern denomination's conservative and unofficial Presbyterian Lay Committee tells the story:

"We have during the past five years experienced a net loss of 350,000 members. We have had a net loss of \$6,700,000 in giving to the General Assembly (national headquarters programs) causes and have seen a \$30,000,000 Reserve Fund—made up of gifts and bequests from dedicated Presbyterians—almost completely wiped out."

The Presbyterian Lay Committee—which in just 11 years has grown to 61 chapters, 20,000 contributors and a newspaper with a 350,000 circulation—also revealed:

"When one national board gives away \$11,500,000 of church assets and guarantees repayment of some \$12,000,000 of mortgage loans assumed by church-owned institutions whose assets that board is about to give to others, such actions, in our opinion, constitute fiscal irresponsibility—however noble the motives may have been. . . . The majority of our Church's informed membership lack that degree of confidence in the leadership which is so essential to an organization based upon voluntary membership and voluntary contributions."

An example of such leadership is seen in the United Presbyterian Church's ranking clergyman, the Rev. Clinton Marsh, of Omaha.

When Marsh quietly gathered the warring conservative and liberal forces of the denomination for an intended love feast on Long Island last winter, the meeting erupted when Pittsburgh's outspoken lay leader told Marsh that with regard to the denomination's far-left headquarters high command:

"We don't trust them."

Specified as a leading cause for this lack of trust was the still festering scandal in which national headquarters managed to conceal for months the donation of \$10,000 in Presbyterian Church funds to the Angela Davis Defense Fund.

Yet Moderator Marsh contends in writing that there was no such concealment—this despite the report of the Presbytery of San Francisco that there was precisely such concealment, which was censured as "dereliction of duty."

Moderator Marsh also contends (in writing) that since "the \$10,000 of the Angela Davis Grant was given back to the Presbyterian Church by 20 of its black ministers," that it is therefore "none of your concern, nor really a concern of the Presbyterian Church what happened to it" (the money).

Moderator Marsh is apparently not impressed with the fact that these black clergy offered not a dime to Angela—until after the concealment was discovered (by an alert California convention delegate, who demanded to know what the "Marin County Legal Defense Fund" was for).

If the Southern Presbyterians think it was tough trying to live with their arch conservative brethren departed, they should have an even hotter time with the opposite extreme, if they allow themselves to be locked in the embrace of Moderator Marsh and William ("The Wizard") Thompson.

## Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Clem Webster reported to the fellers at the country store Saturday night where scientists are predicting some more good news and bad news.

This report Clem saw allowed that by the end of this century doctors will know how to extend human life to 150 years or more, but we don't have no idee what to do with folks that live that long.

The report went on the say that people are living longer all the time, and more of the population ever year falls in the very young and very old group. The young is pushing in one end of the age pipe and squirting the old out the other, Clem allowed, and our society ain't geared up to take care of either one.

Since all the fellers is on the squirting out end of the pipe, they had special interest in Clem's report.

They was agreed with Bill Weatherford that said he wasn't so much concerned about living to be 150 as he was being able to live til he dies. The middle age feller may be caught in the age squeeze, Bill said, but the old folks is the ones being eat alive by inflation. And the hole situation is made worst by raising the Social Security payments ever time Congress meets, cause that jest takes more out of the working man's pockets.

Somebody had to shut up Bill on account he gets carried away if left on the floor too long.

General speaking, Ed Gonty (The Terror of Willow Crick) broke in, this country is being run like a bank that borrows money at 10 per cent interest and lends it out at 5 per cent. You got to make yore profits on volume in a deal like that, said Ed.

As long as enough folks lend the bank money it will have money to lend. That's the way Ed said the Social Security system works. Everybody keeps pouring money into it, and the only hope the system's got is that nobody ever will git as much out as they pay in.

Practical speaking, declared Ed, it would pay the government to do like big industry does, buy out the competition.

The Government ought to git control of whatever is going to let folks live longer, seal it up in concrete and dump it at sea like they do that radioactive stuff. When somebody invents a gasoline substitute, Ed said, you can rest assured the oil companies will make him rich so they can lock up his formula for the next 100 years. What we got to do, Ed went on, is maintain a balance of price and supply, age and retirement benefits, jest like nature does.

Personal, Mister Editor, I'm of a mind we'll work out our problem of folks living longer, and I keep in mind that this is a problem most of the world would like to have. We've got it fixed now so that everything we eat and do is hazardous to our health, so our choice will be between starve and live forever.

Bill, who has regained his breath and the floor simultaneous, said people ain't the only thing getting too old. He said he saw a movie on Carl Spaulding's cable television the other night that was so old the President was one of the good guys.

Serious, I'm more concerned about why my old lady is supposed to outlive me by five years. I eat her cooking.

Yours truly,

MAYOR ROY.

## Quote/unquote

The press is regularly flayed for not being more accurate and responsible. Much of this criticism is justified, especially when one considers that reporters and editors are human beings (an area we won't explore at this point). But the press has improved greatly in every respect, and an item from a Manchester, Iowa, newspaper dated March 16, 1885, serves to prove it. The item was published in the May issue of Oregon Wildlife, an account of Oregon salmon attacking and eating a stagecoach full of travelers! Watergate included, one can't top this for irresponsible reporting.

"The recent frightful accident which happened to a stage in southern Oregon cannot fail, says the New York Times, to call attention of the state authorities to the necessity of protecting settlers against the attacks of salmon. The stage in question was crossing Applegate Creek when it was suddenly attacked by a drove of salmon. The stage was instantly overturned, and the hungry fish swarmed over it, while the stage driver, with great presence of mind, cut the traces of the horses, and throwing himself across the off wheel horse, a powerful animal formerly the property of Doctor Goodrich, of Olympia, managed to escape. The dispatch which conveys to us this painful story says nothing of the fate of the stage passengers, but, unfortunately there is every reason to believe that they fell victims to the salmon. "The Oregon salmon has long been regarded by experienced western hunters as the most dangerous animal infesting this continent. It is much larger than the salmon of the Atlantic coast, and unlike the latter, which is timid and inoffensive, this fish is fearless and aggressive."

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"Why Is It That When Nixon Says 'It's Profane' And 'Vulgar' But When Truman Said It It Was Just 'Earthy?'"