

# Horse sense



By ERNEST V. JOINER

I hope every Oregonian will read the letter in this week's Mail Pouch written by David Mayers, president of Amax Pacific Aluminum Corp. If they do they will understand why I wrote, when environmentalists frightened state and federal legislators into creating a multiplicity of environmental agencies, it meant the last in a long series of moves to complete government's stranglehold on every business in America. All business can now be directed and controlled at the whim of a handful of ribbon-clerks-turned-bureaucrats in such powerful agencies as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Occupational Safety and Hazard Agency (OSHA) and Oregon's own contribution to hysteria over the environment, the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC). Why it was necessary and desirable for Oregon to jump into an area already preempted by the federal government and set up rules and goals even more ridiculous and stringent, has not been explained. But these agencies, whose heads were elected by nobody and who are responsible to nobody, can make or break any business in the United States, as indeed they already have through their unreasonable demands. Amax is an example of what irresponsible bureaucrats, who break their word and change ground rules at will, have done to one industry the state and nation sorely needs. Too, the letter may serve to underline the truth of Oregon's classic maxim, "Visit Oregon, but don't stay." It has cost Amax \$9 million and four years to find it isn't wanted in Oregon. It matters little to the EQC that Amax has met and exceeded all EPA guidelines in pollutant emission or that it is depriving 1,200 families of jobs and an annual payroll of \$15 million. Environmental agencies have crushed industrial production, created unnecessary shortages of strategic consumer goods, spurred inflation, contributed to mass unemployment and weakened the nation's productive capacity, heretofore the greatest on earth and the prime reason for our national existence and high standard of living. Drinking pure water and breathing clean air must seem a strange compensation to the man who has just lost his job and who cannot put food on the family table. Maybe it's time to re-run the Horse Sense column of Oct. 25, 1973, because it prophesied this turn of events.

One predictable event to follow the general election is that Congressmen are moving quietly to increase their salaries again, from a base of \$42,000 to \$58,400, or about 37 per cent. These are the folks who are so outwardly concerned with inflation and rising costs, who make meaty speeches about holding the line, resist price and wage increases and urge us not to buy things we can do without. Well, Americans ought to be resisting this increase in the price of politicians; and, for a fact, they're among the things we can do without. On the other hand, there's hope. Sen. Carl Curtis (R-Nebr.) has introduced a bill, S. 3913, which would cut congressional salaries 10 per cent. It wouldn't hurt to let Sen. Mark Hatfield know that of the two proposals we prefer his support of S. 3913. And that would probably ruin his day!

The City of Baltimore, Md., had a great idea for curbing crime. Last August it began a program of buying up guns for \$50 each. The city also paid \$100 to informants who gave tips that led to confiscation of illegal firearms. After spending more than \$650,000 for the purchase of 13,500 handguns, rifles and shotguns, Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau said the program was a success. He also announced that the number of gun-related murders has risen more than 50 per cent in the city since the gun-buying program began!

The Bible, of course, is concerned with eternity. But the word "eternity" is mentioned only one time in the Bible. Right or wrong?

Oregon's minimum wage, effective Jan. 1, is \$1.75. Now all the kids we couldn't afford to hire last year at \$1.60 an hour are not going to be hired this year at \$1.75—a great way to get everybody working again! Oregon's 1974 traffic death toll now stands at 666, an increase of 41 per cent over 1973—which indicates the 55-mile speed limit may be saving gasoline but not lives. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said last week that the U. S. "cannot rule out war" as a solution to its oil crisis. The next day he said he would not have made the statement if it had not reflected the president's attitude. If we have to go to war in the Middle East to get oil, we can thank first the environmentalists who have for years held up the Alaskan pipeline, off-shore drilling and domestic explorations for oil.

Woman's Lib has struck the Oregon State Fair. "Women's World," used for home economics displays since 1965, has a no-no name that must be changed. We have until Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, to suggest a non-sexist name for the exhibit building. Send your name to "Rename Women's World Contest," State Fairgrounds, Salem, Ore. 97310. I don't think my entries would stand a chance: Whoever's World or The Wonderful World of Whatever. But your entry might win you two tickets to the 1975 Fair Grandstand Revue. I'm too busy trying to find an acceptable, non-sexist substitute for the pronoun "her."

There's a fellow in Hood River who ought to be president, but never will be, because he has come up with the perfect solution to the United States' current economic ills. Clyde Kirby, manager of the Fruit Tree, suggests that since the Arab nations have 20 per cent of the world's wealth at this time and will have it all by 1980, we should not discourage Arabs from investing in the U. S. Arabs have been trying to buy U. S. airlines, railroads, hotel chains, steel and automobile industries, and have been rebuffed. Wrong, Kirby argues. We should sell the Arabs as many of our industries as they can handle. Let them operate the industrial giants for 10 years, then nationalize all their properties and send the beggars back to the desert, broke, with the seat of their pants dragging. This is precisely the procedure other nations use on the United States Nationals, and get away with it. We have become so accustomed to having U. S. property confiscated by foreign governments that our own government doesn't even bother to protest any more. The procedure is legal, it is sanctioned among the "emerging nations" to which we kow-tow, it has been approved by the United Nations, and it has been used by the Arab world against us. And if the blighters want to fight about it, they'd have to come over here to do it instead of us (as Mr. Kissinger and our fun-loving president suggested last week) having to go over there and take Arab oil by force. If the Arab world could mount an invasion, they still wouldn't have anything to wager war with—because we'd have it all!



Walk Softly And Rattle A Small Sabre

## The mail pouch

EDITOR:

I am writing to you regarding a critical turn of events concerning our Warrenton aluminum plant project, and specifically to protest the arbitrary action of the Environmental Quality Commission in changing the rules. In effect, the EQC is moving the goal posts back.

Four years ago Amax Pacific Aluminum Corporation was invited into Oregon, and was given every encouragement to proceed with plans to build an aluminum plant at Warrenton. Gov. Tom McCall extended a welcoming hand, and other state and local officials were generous with assistance.

Knowing of Oregon's outstanding record for preserving livability, Amax Pacific determined that it would build an aluminum plant that would be the cleanest in the world and completely compatible with the state's environmental goals.

Amax Pacific designed its plant operation so as to recirculate the water, and have zero discharge of process water into any waterway.

On air quality, we proposed installation of a new dry scrubber system which would capture and recycle most of the fluorine, limiting fluorine emissions to not more than 1.5 pounds per ton of aluminum produced.

By comparison the federal Environmental Protection Agency was proposing discharge standards of 2.2 pounds of fluorine per ton of aluminum, and existing aluminum plants on the Columbia River are emitting many more pounds of fluorine per ton.

The EQC, however, set the state standards at 1.0 pounds per ton, which their spokesman, Ron Sommers, admitted recently were "the toughest in the world." Amax Pacific immediately undertook an intensive research and development effort to determine if technology could be developed to meet the new standard.

After eight months of work and considerable expense, we determined that with an efficient collection system and by using both dry and wet scrubbers, we could meet the Oregon standard. Data supporting our revised application indicated we expected to operate the plant at about one-third of a pound of fluorine emitted per ton of aluminum produced.

The EQC now proposes to set the emission standard for the plant at zero, making operation of the proposed plant impossible, citing fears of damage to the estuary.

The great weight of scientific evidence shows that such fears are without foundation. The facts are these:

The Columbia River and the Youngs Bay estuary both have a natural fluoride content of approximately 0.2 parts per million. By comparison, sea water contains about 1.2 parts per million, and the cities of Astoria and Warrenton both add fluoride to bring their drinking water up to about 1.0 parts per million for tooth decay prevention.

If all of the fluoride emitted from the Amax Pacific plant ended up in solution in the Youngs Bay waters, the fluoride content of the water in Youngs Bay would be increased by 0.0007. This is an infinitesimal amount.

Competent marine biologists and fishery experts from Beak Consultants and from Oregon State University agree that emissions from the Amax Pacific plant will not harm the organisms in Youngs Bay. The EQC has not made a similar scientific study of the possible effects on the estuary at this date.

The power BPA will supply to the Amax Pacific plant has been another political football. According to our consultants the operation of the Amax Pacific plant at Warrenton would have little impact on the overall supply of electrical energy in Oregon. Should Amax Pacific not be permitted to build, we understand there is no assurance such block of power would be allocated to other Oregon users, but would probably revert to the priority users in the State of Washington and neighboring states.

The Amax Pacific plant will be a major economic benefit to Oregon at this time of recession and high unemployment. Inflation and the cost of pollution control equipment have increased to over \$300 million the planned investment for the Warrenton plant. The construction labor force will be about 1,000 the first year of construction, 1,800 the second year.

The employment impact of the plant will be about 1,200, with 775 jobs at the plant and another 425 secondary jobs in support trades and services. The combined annual payroll will be about \$15 million.

If Oregon did not want the Amax Pacific plant it should not have encouraged us in the first place. Forcing Amax Pacific to abandon its project at a cost of more than \$9 million by an eleventh hour unsubstantiated change of standards, does nothing to enhance the State of Oregon's image. One can only ask how successful the State Economic Development Department will be in the future in attracting new business enterprise to locate in Oregon. Certainly, the American concept of fairness and ethics demands that this matter be resolved in a manner equitable to all concerned.

DAVID MAYERS, president  
Amax Pacific Aluminum Corp.  
Warrenton.

### quote/unquote

"What common-sense man in his right mind would accept the UN General Assembly as having any binding force, or any moral force for that matter, on anybody? . . . Why in the world should any sensible person give a damn what some spokesman for cannibalistic tribes or slave-holding nomads thinks about nuclear tests?"—James Burnham, "Suicide of the West," 1964

"The purpose of education is not happiness; it is not social integration, or political system. Its purpose is at once the discipline of the mind for its own sake; these ends are to be achieved through the mastery of fundamental subjects which cluster around language and number, the two chief instruments by which man knows himself and understands his relation to the world."—Allen Tate, address, University of Minnesota

"The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools."—Herbert Spencer, "Social Statics"

"Nobody is needy in the market economy because of the fact that some people are rich. The riches of the rich are not the cause of the poverty of anybody. The process that makes some people rich is, on the contrary, the corollary of the process that improves many peoples' satisfaction."—Ludwig Von Mises, economist

## Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

You hear a heap of talk this time of year about paying bills. Folks that relaxed cause they had all them credit cards afore Christmas now is getting the other half of the message.

Deficit spending, they are finding out, catches up with people sooner and Government later. I saw that one of the most popular games this year was a old one, Monopoly, where you use play money to wheel and deal. I reckon if folks can't do it fer real they enjoy pretending more, like we use to go to see a south sea island moving picture in the winter and come out refreshed.

But the feller that runs the store was looking at them bills from the other side of the counter. He told the fellers at the session Saturday night that his big headache now is how to get folks to pay what's on his books. They ain't no debtors prisons, he allowed, and general the cost of going to court is more than the bill.

He said little stores are hit worst cause them big chain outfits don't give credit in the first place, and in the second place they don't take no checks that ain't backed up with everything from birth certificate to Social Security number. He said one place his old lady went afore Christmas even made a picture of her and her check.

What he's thinking about, the store feller said, is running a big notice in the paper about all the deadbeats on his books. The first week he'll warn folks that owe him that the next week he's going to run all their names in the paper. He said he looked into it and he was told he might run into some legal problems with holding a man's debts up to public notice. He says he probable won't run the second ad if the first one gits folks as shook up as he thinks it will.

Ed Gonty, fer one, didn't give the feller that runs the store much chanct with his plan. Folks that won't pay honest debts to their neighbors is powerful hard to make ashamed of anything. Ed allowed, and onct they git far enuff behind to take their credit business to another store you have lost em forever. And with them revolving payment plans they got at the big stores, by the time they git through spinning at the first of the month they ain't nothing left fer the little bills.

General speaking, said Ed, them revolving plans has got a hook the customer can't shake. If he skips two payments they come git his color TV, and if he missed one out goes his lights. When a feller has got the benefit of a \$50 ad and when he has eat the groceries, it's a heap harder fer him to find a place fer them bills on his monthly list, was Ed's words.

Talking about bad debts, Ed said he allus heard that at the end of the year companies write em off. The way he figgers it, a company has got to make it afore they write it off. As fer doing business with neighbors, Ed said this junkyard owner he knows won't credit his deadbeat friends, he just gives em parts so his wife won't gripe about writing it off.

Yours truly,  
MAYOR ROY

EDITOR:

Enclosed is a check for a short subscription to the Heppner Gazette-Times.

In 1906 my parents and the children homesteaded near Eightmile, but left there later. In 1929 I worked near Hardman, on or between the forks of Rock Creek on a sheep ranch. Mahoney and John Kelly. In the winter of 1937-38 I helped Andy Baldwin on his transfer truck, and on Feb. 19, 1938, I hired out to the Monahans as night shedman at their lambing camp near Heppner Junction.

I left there when the job was done and went to Montana and worked on sheep outfits for several years, then I got sense enough to come out here on Puget Sound where the weather is milder.

I'm retired now with plenty of time to read, so please send the paper.

CLARENCE E. LAND,  
Snohomish, Wa.

EDITOR:

Some time ago you expressed in your "Horseflesh" or "Horse feathers" or otherwise horsey column your disdain for the man who combed his hair over a bald spot on his head.

I have always been rankled by this remark, because, as an almost baldy myself, I would like to know where in hell to comb the lingering few hairs. Any port in a storm, I say. A dissident reader.

GLENN HAGE  
Reedley, Ca.

EDITOR:

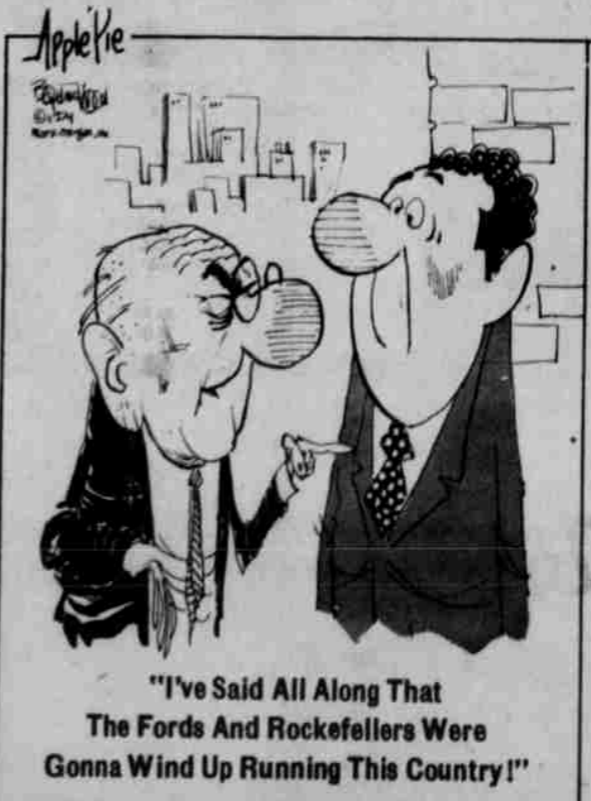
Head for the hills while there's still time! You've just added 28 years to the ages of the young ladies pictured in "Who-And Where."

The picture was printed in the Gazette-Times, June 15, 1967 issue. The young people were 4-H Club members from Morrow County, and the picture was taken at the 1967 Summer School session the week of 11-17.

The names are, front row: Julie Ayres (your print shows only part of her dress), Denise Bloodsworth, Kathleen Sweeney, Marcia Young, Kristine Peterson, Kristin Nelson, Maureen McElligott, Gwen Drake and Debby Warren. Second row: Leonard Munkers, Linda Early, Linda Cooper, Cindy Harsin, Susan Melby, Sherri O'Brien, Ruby Fullerton, Tanya Tucker, Vicky Hobbs, Mrs. Marjorie Wilcoxon. Third row: Mrs. Bessie Kerlin, Sandi Carlson, Larry Pettyjohn, Kerry Peterson, Jill Padberg, John Hall, Dave Hall, Melvin Ashbeck and Leon Wilson.

PEARLP. KRUSE,  
Portland.

(Ed. Note—That's where we're printing this issue of the paper—from the hills! The "correct" picture is being published this week.)



## What Epiphany is all about

Twelfth Night or Epiphany—Jan. 6—marks the end of the Christmas holiday season.

This is the traditional time to burn Christmas greens, the National Geographic Society says. Jan. 6 is celebrated with many other customs, rituals, and legends throughout the Christian world.

Epiphany seems to have been observed in memory of the baptism of Jesus long before Dec. 25 was celebrated as Christmas, or Christ's actual birthday. Epiphany was first mentioned in A.D. 194. By the 4th century, the feast of Epiphany was widely accepted.

In 9th-century England, King Alfred made Epiphany a Saxon fixture by decreeing that the Christmas season should include Christmas day and the 12 days following.

When Charles II ascended the throne, the Twelfth Night cake was a standard tradition along with the burning of the Christmas greens. One chronicler reported: "Wee had a great kake made in which was put a bean for the king. The kake was cut into several pieces and all put into a napkin, out of which every one took his piece as out of a lottery."

According to a Syrian legend, wild animals stay in their dens and caves on Epiphany Eve; at midnight trees kneel in adoration of Jesus and all wishes are fulfilled.

The early Teutonic people took a dim view of any Twelfth Night revelry. They regarded the season as a fearful time when demons and spirits prowled the earth. At their feasts, they sacrificed food to the dead and drank to the powerful god Wotan.

During the Middle Ages, Twelfth Night was commemorated with plays staged in churches. Solemn observances largely disappeared in Elizabethan England. They gave way to joyous revelry and wassail. A popular song echoed the spirit:

Wassail! Wassail! all over the town,  
Our toast it is white, our ale it is brown,  
Our bowl it is made of a maple tree,  
We be good fellows all; I drink to thee.

Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" reflects the merry mood. The play probably was first presented in a command performance at Whitehall Palace on Jan. 6, 1601, when Queen Elizabeth entertained a distinguished Italian guest, the Duke of Bracciano.

Twelfth Night revels later declined in popularity, but the customs of feasting and staging masques still survive in parts of England.

Latin people regard Epiphany as both a solemn religious festival and the beginning of the pre-Lenten carnival season. Mexico's greatest pilgrimage is the Epiphany march of the devout to the shrine of the miraculous Lord of Chalma in a valley southwest of Mexico City.

In present Christian tradition, Epiphany, Greek for "appearance," has a threefold meaning: the visit of the Three Wise Men to Jesus, being the first manifestation of the newborn child as Savior of all; His baptism; and Jesus's first miracle in changing water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana. The three events supposedly occurred on the same date though in different years.

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**THE GAZETTE-TIMES**  
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 MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
 Box 377, Heppner, Ore. 97836  
 Subscription rate: \$6 per year in Oregon, \$7 elsewhere  
 Ernest V. Joiner, Publisher  
 Published every Thursday and entered as a second-class matter at the post office at Heppner, Oregon, under the act of March 3, 1879. Second-class postage paid at Heppner, Oregon.  
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 A SUGGESTION FROM THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA