

Horse sense

By ERNEST V. JOINER



● Bill Weatherford's book, "Over My Shoulder," is due to be officially launched in a few days at an autograph party and coffee. It is an interesting work. My only adverse criticism is that it has no foreword to prepare the reader for what's ahead. He jumps right into his series of vignettes of family and Eastern Oregon history without preface, which is like diving into a swimming pool before bothering to see that it has been filled. Aside from that, readers will find it filled with historical notes, family history, anecdotes and a "fair to middling" run of homespun philosophy that makes for interesting reading—even if one doesn't know the Weatherford family (which would be difficult for any native Oregonian) or W.W. Weatherford himself (which is practically impossible!). Bill employs a different technique in this book. He writes the way he speaks. He also writes as he damn well pleases, which is enough to endear the work to any newsman who has had to wade through reams of "high semantics" to sift out what most authors really have to say, if anything. He writes an earthy story, reminiscent of times when people spoke plainly and forcibly. True, the book was written for distribution among members of the Weatherford family. It is intended to give them an insight into what life and conditions were during his long and interesting life. But it is good reading for any outsider, too, in that it depicts a frontier family life—its joys, sorrows and battle for survival and self-development. It has some typographical errors, but what can you expect when it was printed by the Gazette-Times!

● A couple of weeks ago I remarked on an API study of our burgeoning illiteracy, with clear implications that the school system is doing a poor job of teaching students to read and write. Last week Cliff Williams of Lexington questioned the study in a letter to the Mail Pouch. Of course, I have no idea what went into the study or how the conclusions were reached. But Cliff's query about how it was determined that a college graduate would read, on the average, no more books during his lifetime indicated less curiosity than criticism. I think it is natural for school people to defend their schools, which I think Cliff was doing. Which brings up another experiment, the results of which can be verified, and which may be more to Cliff's liking. Back in 1966 Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara noted that 600,000 men were being rejected annually for the draft because of physical or mental unfitness. So the armed forces decided to take 100,000 of these rejects and try to remedy their educational and physical deficiencies that the school had not. They called it Project 100,000. Since then more than 300,000 men have been involved in the study. The Council for Basic Education, a private, Washington, D.C., based organization evaluated the armed forces' experiment. It found that 45 per cent in Project 100,000 were high school graduates but only 20 per cent tested at 8th grade or above in reading, and only 7 per cent tested at 8th grade or above in arithmetic. Eighty per cent of the men satisfactorily finished a crash reading course of up to eight weeks. The average improvement in reading ability was almost two grade levels. That should say something about the value of a high school diploma in terms of actual accomplishment.

● It's sad but true, the days when a man's word was honored and as binding as a written contract are past. Rural areas such as we live in are the last to admit to this change. Unfortunately it strikes home when bad checks and broken agreements drop like a bomb in our town.

In quick succession these incidents struck the Heppner merchants and now they are faced with a choice. Instead of trusting every customer they must now be suspicious of nearly everyone. Only those of long standing acquaintance or business relation will avoid the scrutiny of merchants suspicious of every new face in town. And rightly so, as small towns will be, and are the prime targets of check artists and con men. Larger cities have initiated programs of self protection.

This is the alternative local merchants must decide. Will they unite and instigate a program where new area arrivals will be required to fill out information forms before checks will be accepted. This information has proved necessary for people who have resided here for a period of several months. There will be occasions when he must determine whether to take a check or have the customer use a bank charge card. It will be necessary to form a habit of requiring himself, as well as employees, to obtain certain information about the check writer before accepting the check. He will certainly have to learn more about the "whys" of laws pertaining to these specific crimes to understand if he is a loser or may regain part of his loss. More importantly, he must learn the problems and become familiar with the people he has elected to uphold the laws and their limitations.

Heppner merchants are showing reluctance in giving up counter checks even though this is the only area in Oregon that has them. Perhaps, like other places, they will continue to have counter checks until the banks say they will no longer furnish them. The adjustment period and inconvenience without these checks is very brief.

I firmly believe the Heppner merchants will formulate a program of unification and in no way will the customer feel insulted. In these times everyone realizes the plight of the businessman and will cooperate with whatever program of self protection he may develop.

● A national organization, Action for Children's Television, (ACT) is striving for better television programming with emphasis on reducing violence. The "boob tube" can be a marvelous source of education if properly directed.

Educational programs have proved to be an effective learning tool. Likewise, and most unfortunate, violence and crime are also studied and copied. Many robberies and violent criminal acts are copied from identifiable programs.

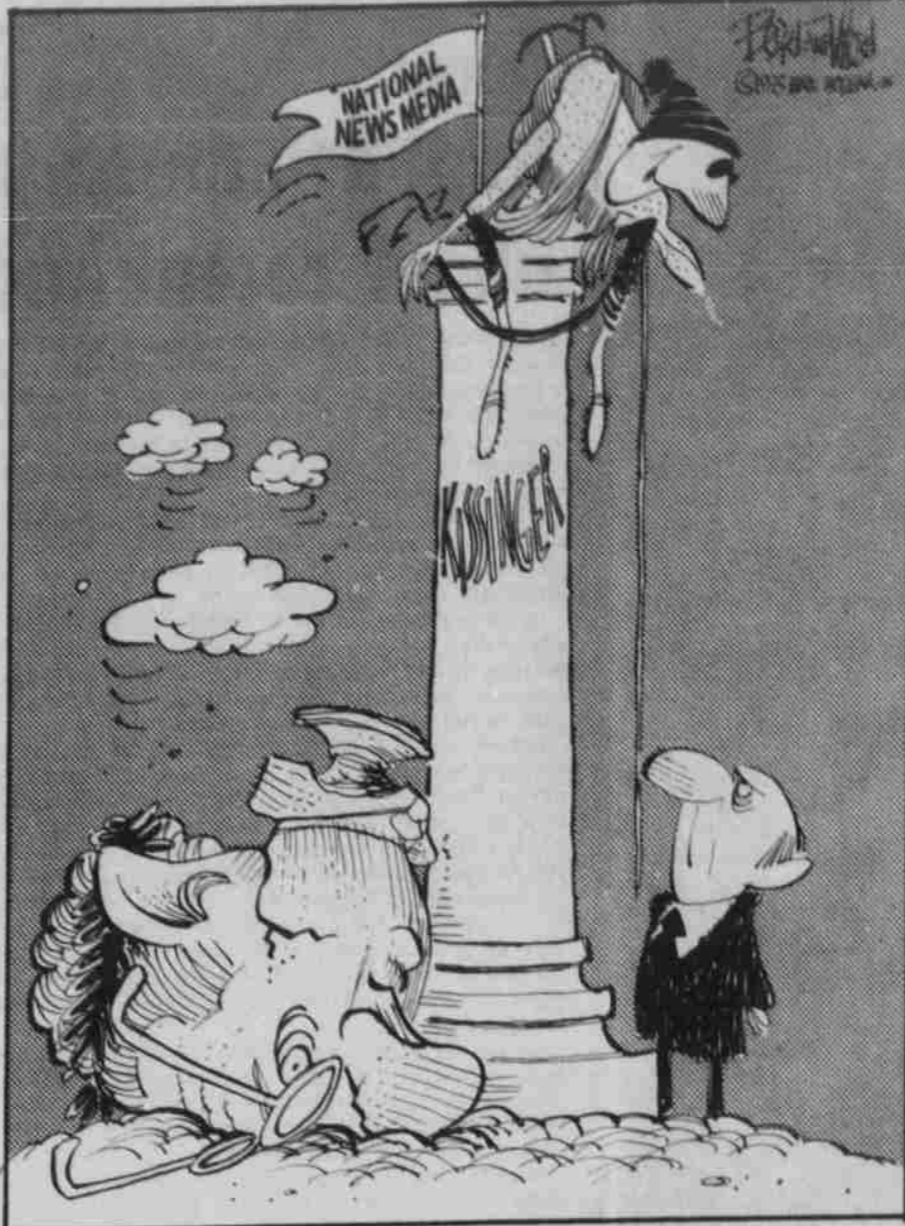
Certain businesses that spent millions of dollars as TV sponsors have cancelled all their advertising until programming has improved.

The only elimination of violence I've noticed is in a commercial sponsored by the manufacturer of a certain analgesic. It used to be that two villainous characters would attack some unsuspecting person, while one used a hammer to the head, the other was punching the poor soul in the midriff with a huge boxing glove. It's comforting to know the same result is now obtained by just pointing a finger. Well, that's some progress.

Speaking of TV advertising, I wonder if more customers might be lost by some of the sickening commercials rather than selling more of the product.

I've warned my cat that if he doesn't land a singing commercial job soon, it's back to table scraps for him.

● The plight of the city over the location of the new reservoir is further evidence of the need for written agreements. Whether officials were relying on verbal agreements is not known, but it appears to be rather late in the game to find the location has not been obtained. Someone apparently dropped the ball. NP



"...Because He Was There..."

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

Enclosed are the results of the survey of issues before the Oregon Legislature that you so kindly printed several weeks ago.

The response to the poll was tremendous, as over 600 residents of Senate District 28 took the time to fill out the questionnaire and return it to this office.

Again, let me thank you for your help in this effort. You can be assured that the views of North Central Oregon residents—as shown in this poll—will be weighed carefully as these issues come before the Senate.

KEN JERNSTEDT
Salem.

Survey results

Results of a three-week survey of Dist. 28 residents show strong feelings on eight top legislative issues, according to Sen. Ken Jernstedt, R-Hood River.

Over 600 district residents clipped and mailed the survey, printed in area newspapers as a public service. Those responding said "no" to lowering the drinking age to 19, requiring fluoridation of community drinking water supplies, increasing the gasoline tax by two cents and requiring the use of seatbelts in all automobiles in the state. Senate District 28 residents

avored resumption of the death penalty for first-degree murder convictions, opening the Oregon primary election to independent voters and banning commercial gillnet fishing on the Columbia River.

In addition, those responding said state employees are not justified in seeking pay increases of 37 per cent.

Sen. Jernstedt commented: "These figures give a clear indication of the feeling of North Central Oregon residents. Their views will be weighed carefully as these issues come before the Oregon Senate in the coming weeks."

	(Per cent)		
	YES	NO	?
1. Should the gasoline tax be increased two cents a gallon?	25.8	66.8	7.4
2. Should the drinking age be lowered to 19?	21.3	76.7	2.0
3. Do you favor mandatory fluoridation of drinking water supplies in Oregon?	20.3	74.2	5.5
4. Should the death penalty be legalized for first-degree murder convictions?	78.4	16.3	5.3
5. Are state employees justified in seeking 37 per cent pay increases?	10.8	81.8	7.4
6. Should the use of seatbelts be made mandatory in Oregon?	17.8	78.0	4.2
7. Should registered independents be allowed to vote in Oregon's Primary Election?	79.7	14.7	5.6
8. Should commercial gillnet fishing be banned on the Columbia River?	65.6	22.3	12.2

Cattlemen take lead in reducing cow herds

Seedstock producers are taking the lead in reducing the nation's cow herds, according to an announcement by the U.S. Beef Breeds Council. Reports indicate producers are cutting back cow numbers by more than 10 per cent to help alleviate the extreme financial problems beef producers are experiencing.

The Council, representing 100,000 U.S. beef cattle seedstock producers, says that the 10 per cent figure is the surplus number of cows in the country according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics. The Council is urging voluntary cutbacks in all cow herds because cow numbers are in such great surplus they will be competing on the market with fed cattle for a long period of time unless cow numbers are adjusted to optimum numbers quickly.

"The amount of beef we're asking to be slaughtered immediately is about the same amount as is being imported," says Council President Orville K. Sweet, Kansas City, Mo.

The U.S. currently has the largest cattle herd, our basic beef factory, in history at 131.8 million head, according to the American National Cattleman's Association. And 1974 beef production was a record 21 billion pounds. The results of culling is seen in the long run as a way to improve efficiency and productivity and will be good for the entire industry.

"The move we're calling for represents a positive program to encourage cattlemen to self-impose measures to stabilize the cattle market which was wrecked by government price ceilings, unrestricted imports and high prices of grain resulting from record exports of grain," Sweet says. "Also, U.S. consumers need to be aware that in spite of all this, cattlemen have never been subsidized by the government."

He adds that consumers need to be considering several questions as cattlemen continue to suffer financial losses. "If the domestic cattle industry is allowed to continue its

hospital area to prevent damage to the valves.

In other business to come before the council, it was voted to accept the budget as recommended by the budget committee and members of the council present at the meeting.

A public hearing for a Block Grant Application was held prior to the regular council meeting with citizens urged to take an active part in community projects.

Income tax rebates

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has sent a telegram to the states saying that the income tax rebates and special payments will have no effect on the eligibility of food stamp participants. Those rebates and payments were provided for in the Tax Reduction Act of 1975 which President Ford signed into law on March 29, 1975. The law provides refunds on 1974 individual income taxes and a special \$50 payment to recipients of social security, railroad retirement, and Supplemental Security Income Benefits.

The Tax Reduction Act of 1975 requires that refunds and special payments shall not be counted as income or resources for purposes of determining eligibility or the amount of benefits received under any federal assistance program.

heavy losses as a result of excessive imports of low-quality foreign beef, can the American consumer afford to become dependent on a foreign supply of beef? Does this situation parallel the oil crisis when we become so dependent on foreign suppliers who could control the price and supply? Should there be a relatively quick amputation of this 10 per cent of the cows or do we prolong the adjustment in numbers and the deficit operating conditions over several years?" he asks.

The Council is asking cattlemen to use their own discretionary acts, timing and disposal, but are encouraged to reduce their cow herds by at least 10 per cent in the next six months. Some may choose to market their lower producing cows for slaughter or they may make tax-deductible donations of cattle for slaughter to orphan homes, hospitals or other benevolent organizations.

Members of the U.S. Beef Breeds Council are the American Angus, American Brahman Breeders, International Brangus Breeders, American Hereford, American Polled Hereford, American Shorthorn, Red Angus, Santa Gertrudis Breeders International, and American-International Charolais Associations.

CHANGE IN METHOD OF REGISTRATION

The President has changed the method of Registration with Selective Service from the present 30-days-before to 30-days-after the 18th birthday, to an Annual Registration of a few days duration. In the future, registration will be accomplished sometime after each new calendar year for those reaching 18 years of age in the year before.

Thus, those young men registering on April 1, 1975 will be the last registered until the first annual registration early in 1976. At that time all those who have not registered, but would have done so under regulations up to now, will be registered.

BOYD and Wood



Council... Mayor of Hardman

(Continued from Page 1)

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

The feller that runs the country store was putting up his stock Saturday night during the meeting, and he was back in his shelves mulling to himself. I heard him fussing a while back about how he was wearing out his price-stamping outfit, but he was complaining cause everybody grows at him like it's his fault the price of everthing is allus going up.

All he does, he said, is order the groceries. When it comes he opens the cases, figgers the price he's got to git from the price he paid, marks it and puts it on the shelf. He is just a innocent victim of the inflated prices, and it gits his goat fer folks to blame him. He said he had to pay 25 per cent more fer Easter candy than he did just a year ago, and he ain't got no choice but to pass along the increase to his customers.

Zeke Grubby heard the store feller talking to hisself, Mister Editor, and the next time Zeke got the floor in the discussion he brung his remarks about prices before the full panel of economic experts. Zeke said he fer one was agreed with the store feller, cause it was clear to him that this hole country is caught in the middle of all the problems. They ain't nobody around that starts problems, Zeke allowed, and they ain't nobody that stops em, so everbody must be in the middle.

Furthermore, went on Zeke, everbody is tired of not being able to put the blame on somebody. Right now, he said, we got about as much control over Cambodia as we got over the weather, and we're gitting awful sick of both of em. Nobody caused em and nobody is doing a thing about em. It ain't no wonder we got folks beating up the TV weathermen and hiring pie throwers to splatter newspaper reporters when all we git is floods, higher prices, more folks out of work and more places fell to the communists.

Ed Doolittle was full agreed with Clem. Ed told the fellers that back in the days of the Old Testament, the bearers of bad tidings lost their heads on the spot, and he reckoned that put a crimp in honest reporting. We all got to shift the blame off ourselves, Ed said, so we ought to understand folks that use to pile their troubles on the back of a goat and chase the critter off. Since everbody is in the middle of our problems and nobody is causing em or curing em, the only people we can find to pile our troubles on is them that tell us about em, was Ed's words.

Mister Editor, after talking the situation up one side and down the other, the fellers was of a mind that what you news folks got to do is hit the good news harder. Fer instant, you can report how hard times is good for the shoe repair business cause nobody can afford new shoes. And you can tell us how church going and giving picks ups when everthing else goes down, cause the Lord scareth a cheerful giver.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.



Council of Churches make charges against FBI, CIA

By LESTER KINSOLVING

The need for utmost care and restraint in the current investigations of the CIA and FBI should be obvious—not only in the importance of these agencies to the security of the U.S., but in their having suffered for five years under Richard Nixon.

A committee of the National Council of Churches (NCC) has, however, leaped into this sensitive area in such a manner as to suggest the Keystone Cops, under the joint command of Harpo Marx and Bozo The Clown.

In a background statement published by the NCC, this committee charged:

"There are indications and allegations—though no hard evidence—that from 1971 to 1973, persons showing what purported to be credentials of federal agencies, CIA, FBI—and in one instance threatening an Interchurch Center (ICC) headquarters' employee with a gun if he 'opened his mouth' about their visit—gained admittance to the premise of the Interchurch Center at night."

This written report made no mention of the fact that last year a band of black militant thugs from Harlem occupied the entire floor of the Interchurch Center for 28 hours and reportedly inspected all files. No charges were filed against these people by the NCC authorities.

But in its apparent effort to smear the FBI and the CIA, the NCC has published a statement of serious charges, based entirely on "indications and allegations—though no hard evidence." If this seems incredible for an agency of 32 religious denominations, the NCC staff produced even more along this line:

"Amateur electronics tests seemed to indicate the presence of 'bugs' on several telephone lines, including that of the Deputy General Secretary of the NCC."

Commented the Rev. Gerald McAllister, NCC Governing Board member from San Antonio, who eventually succeeded in having this NCC staff report amended:

"I gather that those using these 'amateur electronics tests' didn't know whether their equipment was working."

But at this point, Chicago Sun Times' religion writer, Roy Larson, noted that the Rev. Sterling Cary, President of the NCC, had told him during an interview:

"There is proof positive that there were bugs."

But the Rev. Dean Kelley of the NCC staff promptly conceded:

"We couldn't afford the electronic surveillance—which would have cost us \$1,000 per room."

The Rev. Mr. Kelley was identified by the NCC Dept. of Information as the NCC's "expert on religious and civil liberties." Yet Kelley served on this committee which produced the set of unsubstantiated charges against the FBI and CIA. Moreover, Kelley angrily refused to confirm or deny his reported authorship of this report—which information NCC authorities are continuing to conceal.

Considering the NCC's dwindling but still multi-million dollar budget, \$1,000 per room would have been far less expensive in the long run than the serious increase in the NCC credibility gap, occasioned by charges without evidence—along with conflicting statements from President Cary and Liberties Expert Kelley.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
Box 337, 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.