

Horse sense

By
ERNEST V. JOHNER



● The character of Heppner is changing. It's too bad, too. It wasn't long ago that a stranger could come into town and cash a check or buy goods on credit. No more. The bad guys have spoiled it for everybody, as they always do. There is another area where the town and the county must eventually change its ways, too. And that's too bad. I refer to the new clinic and the two new doctors, and the way both came to pass. When the county found the land it wanted, it bought it as a site for the clinic. Never mind that a clear title couldn't be secured because it was plastered with liens. And Boise Cascade didn't mind that it was putting up a clinic on land without clear title, thus encumbering the building too. And never mind that the two doctors have never signed any contract to practice in the clinic and could take off for Idaho or South Africa tomorrow and leave us all stuck with a vacant clinic. I think it is great that Heppner people can operate in such a climate of trust. But sooner or later one of the bad guys will come along and make it expensive for Heppner and Morrow County. Then we will have to have things all tied up neatly and legally like the city folks, by batteries of lawyers, planners and accountants. But for now it's remarkable and satisfying that we can get things moving, and fast, and not have to piddle around tying up all the loose ends. We still can get the show on the road. It will be sad when this era ends. I will be glad, though, to have lived in such a simple and uncomplicated climate.

● Teaching, explained the Superintendent of Public Schools, is a tough job. Whatever you do cannot be measured. You never know just where you stand. It is only a belief in yourself and the system you follow that carries you along. Results help very little, and while you see a certain response in the immediate work of the students the big benefits you want to confer remain in the shadow. Grief is plentiful. It has come now to the place where the schools are expected to take the child, rear him, cultivate him and do all but clothe him and provide for his lodging. Parents in many instances are anxious to shift every burden of responsibility they can to the schools. We have always been willing to do our share, but there isn't any institution in existence that can take the place of the home in the life of a child. If the home does not fulfill its purpose, nothing else can.

—The Dearborn Independent, Sept. 18, 1926

● The defeat of the budget for Blue Mountain Community College seems to bring forth many comments regarding the college as well as the school system in Morrow County. Whether all of the statements are valid is not the question. The question is that people are speaking out against the present school system. One of the biggest gripes coming forth is the quality of education presented in Morrow County. Many people feel there are too many students on the honor roll compared to the number of students graduating. Others contend that the grades handed out on the local high school level are not a true grade. One person approached me and told me the following: "When I attended Ione High School, I received straight A's." This led me to believe that I knew how to study and was just ahead of the rest of the kids in my class. "Then came the moment of truth, I graduated and went on to college."

"From a straight A student I nearly flunked out of college. I had not learned how to study." After many nights of burning the midnight oil I was able to graduate from college with a C average. This was one hell of a let down, but I graduated and I feel that I don't owe the high school any favors. They hindered rather than helped me.

He went on to say, "In the present school system they must grade on a curve, for I have never heard of anyone failing (not graduating) high school. If the village nitwit gets a grade of D you don't have to be a genius to get an A. Another comment along the same lines is, if the students are that smart, why does the school board have to replace at least one third of its teachers each year? Granted some of the younger teachers either in Heppner, Ione or Riverside leave to get married, or decide to change professions. If the school board had the experienced teachers required to get most of the students on the honor roll they wouldn't have to replace them. What happens to all of the straight A students who attend college? Do they continue to make the Dean's list or do most of them fall by the wayside, not being able to cope with the competition? Herbert Hoover hit the nail on the head when he said, "An educated man is merely one who knows where to look for the facts."

● Now that you have had the chance to digest some of the facts presented by a school board member, nearly 30 years ago, what changes do you see in the administration? They are still out telling you to vote for their school bond, for if they fail they will have to cut back on school athletics, and the buses used to take junior to the ball game or track meet.

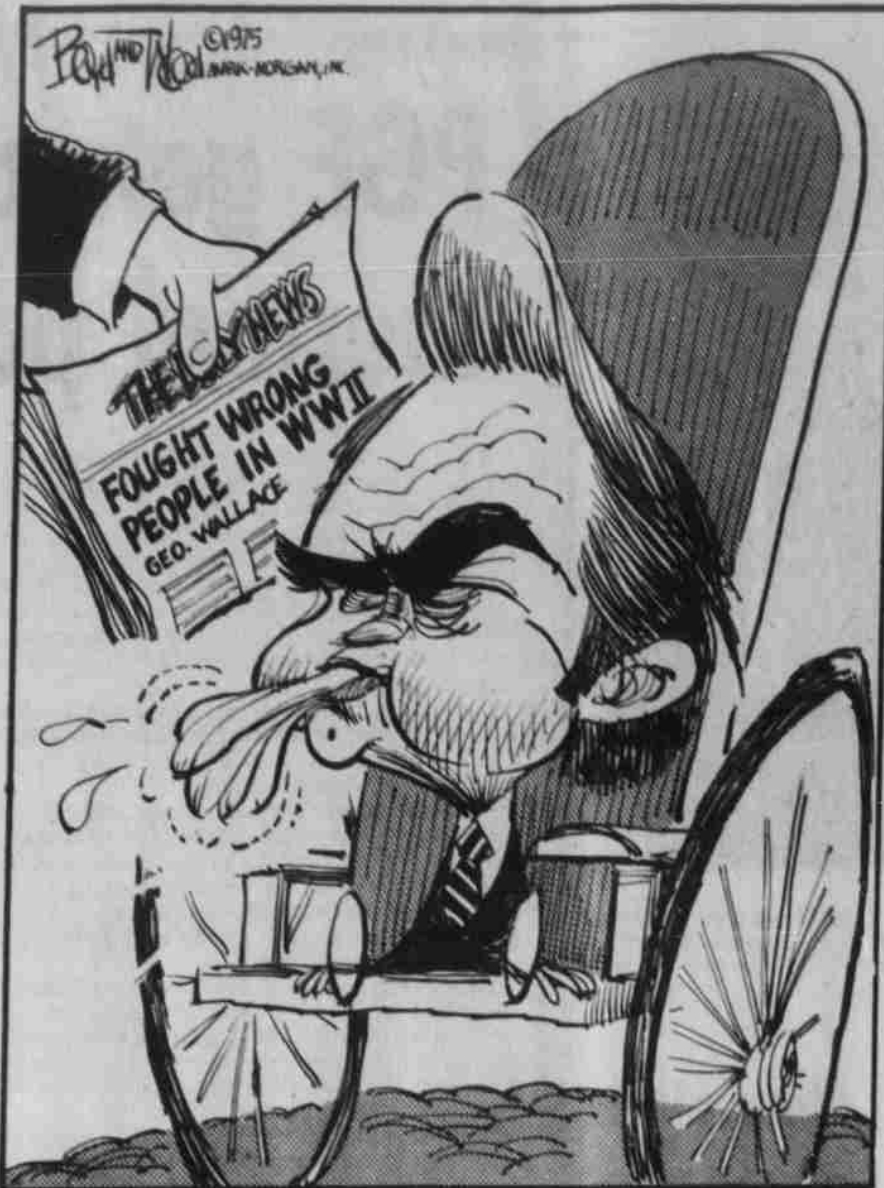
In the long range planning program for Morrow County, over \$250,000 is appropriated for new gymnasiums, while only \$4,000 is budgeted for the addition of new library facilities. While it is true that every school likes a winning team, what happens to all of these four lettermen who are presented with award after award, for their participation in sports on the local level when they enter college? What a shock it must be for an All American Athlete here in Morrow County to not be able to make the freshman team in college. I have yet to see the name of a Morrow County athlete on the roster of the University of Oregon's football team. Last year over 150 freshmen turned out for football at the University of Oregon, and they finished the season with slightly over 40 players.

I am not against sports, either team or individual, but what about the student who has a heart condition and can't go out for the rough and tumble sports. Does he have the chance to become a big hero in high school or must he gracefully bow out of the picture?

Taking a look at the other side of the fence, what happens to a coach whose team continually loses ballgames? Is he fired? The answer is yes, but he moves out and up . . . up into an administrative position. Aren't all coaches good guys, so who wants to fire a good guy. Check the statistics if you don't believe me, or better yet read a newly published book entitled "Tyrant in Cap and Gown".

Dorothy Krebs, director of Blue Mountain Community College, hit the nail on the head when she referred to BMCC as a "play palace." She was under the impression that college was a place for learning and the taxpayers didn't have to pay for students to learn belly-dancing or finger painting, at least not in college. She will agree that finger painting is fine for the children in kindergarten, but having to pay for this in college? Nonsense.

There were only two communities in Morrow County that voted against both budgets, the one for Morrow County and the one for Blue Mountain Community College, Lexington and Ione did just that. A tip of the Sirica cap to the people of those communities that had the guts to vote no. E.C.



"...Quoted Out Of Context And That's The Truth pfffft."

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

To whom it may concern. At the time I wrote my first letter I was very careful not to mention any names of the telephone companies involved. I didn't feel it was important since my fight is basically with the system set up by the Public Utilities Department.

In view of recent publications on the matter I feel I had better make my position clear. Pacific Northwest Bell has been very cooperative in assisting us in our efforts to receive telephone service. It is Eastern Oregon Telephone Co. under the management of Walter Karnopp that has been the stumbling block.

In my original letter I stated that we had a mobile phone in our car and the problems with it had been many. I think now might be a good time to list some of them.

April 8—took car to Pilot Rock to have phone installed. Left car there.

April 9—pick car up in Boardman. When you called out on the unit the static level would build up until you couldn't hear the other person.

From April 9-12 the car battery was run down many times even with a 4-amp charger on the battery. This happened if the phone was turned on or off.

April 14—took car to Boardman to have phone worked on 2 1/2 hours. I placed a local call, was cut off 3 times, then found out the phone wouldn't ring in when someone tried to call me.

April 15—took car to Boardman and left it for them to work on the telephone. Went back around 6 p.m. to pick car up—found a note stating they had taken the car to Pilot Rock to put a new unit in it. (used) We could pick our car up in Boardman at noon, April 17. 2 1/2 days. NO CAR AND NO PHONE.

April 17-20—all seemed well, no battery problems, but horn would sometimes blow when you started the car.

April 21—long distant call was cut off after only a few seconds. Problem seemed to get worse. We could call out but incoming calls would cut out after a short conversation.

April 25 a.m.—long distant call came in, they had to call 3 times before we could complete a short conversation.

April 25-30—no calls. Come to find out many people had tried while we were home but the calls wouldn't ring thru. May 1—while the car was running a call came through—hay buyer—he had to call 3 times before we could find out who he was and when his trucks would be here.

May 1—headed to Boardman to have phone worked on—about 1 mile from home the horn started blaring. Horn relay under radiator cover, couldn't get to it. Drove the next 14 miles with the horn blaring. (burned horn out) Left the car to have phone worked on. At 2 p.m. I got word on the CB that one of our children had been hurt at school. NO CAR AND NO PHONE. 7 p.m. Go to Boardman to pick up car. Called information to get a Salem telephone number. Had to try 3 times before we could talk long enough to exchange information. Lady from Pendleton tried to call us from 7-9 p.m. The call didn't ring in.

May 2—horn would honk when you start the car. My brother tried to call us for 2 hours, finally drove the 30 miles. Long distant call from Salem. Called 5 times, kept getting cut off. Last time the horn blew but the connection wouldn't complete and go thru. I had a dial tone when I answered.

May 3—I had trouble dialing out—would still have dial tone after dialing the number. On 2 occasions I had to drive the 6 miles round trip to place a phone call.

May 5—car battery dead.

May 6—took car to Boardman to have phone worked on.

May 7—phone rang 3 times, when I answered it I had nothing but static. Called out and phone worked well. Horn still blows when you start car.

May 9—local call, got so noisy had to hang up and call back.

This is the kind of service we are receiving for approximately \$50 per month, plus all long distant charges.

Thank you for letting me air all of my complaints, I feel better even if it doesn't help our problem.

LEANN REA
Lexington



Franchise

Mayor of Hardman

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DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

It looks like old soldiers never die. Mister Editor, they jest git out of work. Zeke Grubb come to the session at the country store Saturday night with this report where unemployment has hit the military ranks. Not only is the service gitting plenty of volunteers to do the work, they got more officers than they need to stand around and watch.

Zeke said this happens after ever war and he said that, on balance, he'd rather have the military unemployment than the war. Folks understand the country has got to have a standing army to keep up our defense, Zeke said, but somehow it seems funny fer a general to run out of work. Why should the military cut the payroll, Zeke wanted to know, when ever other Government agency keeps adding to theirs?

The piece Zeke had read reported that officers are a glut on the market since we quit fighting in Vietnam. We got more than 3,000 lieutenant and captains in the Army and Air Force that we ain't got a job fer. Zeke said, so we're going to turn them out so they can stand in unemployment lines with the rest of the civilians. They're having a weedout now of these low-ranking officers, so it looks like these fellers will be fighting different battles pritty soon.

Clem Webster said he realized the problems you have with to many chiefs and not enuff Indians, but the military cutback was on the wrong end of the chief ranks. Clem said the Army is like any other outfit, the higher up you git the less work there is to do. The lieutenant and captains is the only officers that do anything Clem allowed, and when you cut them back the generals won't have anybody left to tell what to do. Clem said he was in favor of this plan by a feller named Ernest Fitzgerald. He wants to git rid of most of the generals and admirals and let civilians do the paperwork at half the price.

Fitzgerald ain't popular at the Pentagon. He's the same feller that got the Air Force in hot water over paying about five times what they ought to fer a new airplane. Now he wants to weed out 1,300 generals and admirals that are costing \$60 million a year to keep up. Fitzgerald says these old warhorses don't do a thing, but that a heap of them draw more than the \$60,000 a year we pay the secretary of the Army. What he wants to do is replace most of em with civilians that will work cheaper, and them that's fixing to retire won't leave a vacancy anyway, so the defense budget can save two ways. It's a plan far to simple to work, was Clem's words.

Actual, Mister Editor, the fellers don't expect much to come of Fitzgerald's and Clem's idee. Them generals and admirals didn't git rows of ribbons across their chest fer not knowing how to look out fer No. 1 in peace as well as war.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.

COUNTY PARK OPENS

Anson Wright Park is now open to the public. Cutsforth Park will be open May 22.

EDITOR:

No one wants a strike but who are you, anyway to say what should or should not be. You don't even bother to get your facts straight.

According to an impartial fact finding committee, state employees would need a 31 1/2 per cent raise over the next two years to be near equal with workers of the same class in private enterprise. However they felt 4 1/2 per cent of that should be deferred and a raise of 27 per cent granted because of economic conditions.

Governor Straub promised if he was elected during the gubernatorial campaign last fall that he would recommend "a catch-up pay raise for state employees effective Jan. 1, 1975. Doesn't look like he intends to even keep that promise.

The contract is for a two-year period and there's no way the OSEA could up the ante next year. If pay raises should be granted it would be 17 per cent this year and the other 10 per cent the first of July in 1976.

Why should anyone want to hurt the welfare of the public as we are part of that public and pay taxes as well as anyone else that works. We have bills to pay and food needs. Prices aren't any cheaper for us than anyone else.

Why don't you check low wages for some of the state employees and other facts before you write such biased junk in the paper. Low wages are under \$400 per month before taxes and other deductions.

MARY MCCLAIN

Board member

accused of atrocities

By LESTER KINSOLVING



Rumanian Orthodox Bishop Valerian Viola D. Trifa of Detroit—who was identified 20 years ago as "a former Rumanian Nazi" by columnist Drew Pearson—is now slated for court action to revoke his U.S. citizenship by the U.S. Attorney's office in Detroit.

The case of Bishop Trifa, who allegedly lied about his wartime activities, has been featured in such newspapers as the Detroit Free Press and the New York Times.

But largely unnoticed thus far is the fact that Bishop Trifa has for the past three years been a member of the General Board of the National Council of Churches.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has reported that Trifa was a leader of Rumania's Iron Guard, which, in cooperation with the Nazi occupation forces, murdered at least 1,000 Jews in Bucharest. 200 of these were taken to that city's municipal slaughter house, stripped and led to the chopping blocks. Here their throats were cut and they were hung on meathooks while their bodies were stamped "Carne Kosher" ("Kosher Meat").

At his denomination's 200-acre estate, Bishop Trifa has denied all charges and replied that he welcomes his day in court because he will be completely vindicated.

At the Manhattan headquarters of the National Council of Churches (NCC), the Rev. Dean Kelley acknowledged that the council of 31 Protestant and Orthodox denominations was aware of the Trifa case. But he explained that delegates to the General Board of the NCC are chosen by the denominations themselves, with such selections subject to no challenge by the Council.

Another NCC spokesman added that even if missing Nazi leader Martin Bormann were discovered to be an NCC General Board member, the matter would be up to his denomination.

The Department of Justice action against Bishop Trifa is the culmination of more than three decades of effort by Manhattan dentist Charles H. Kremer, President of the Rumanian Jewish Federation of America. Dr. Kremer has submitted 88 separate files of documentary evidence about Trifa to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

For more than 20 years, Dr. Kremer received virtually the same form letter from this branch of the Department of Justice—which letter contended that Trifa's naturalization application had been investigated "exhaustively" and there were no grounds for deportation.

But after Manhattan's United Israel Bulletin reported the case and the Detroit Jewish News published a photograph of Trifa in the uniform of the Iron Guard, the daily Detroit Free Press featured the case, followed later by the New York Times.

Finally the INS admitted that there was no record of the "exhaustive" investigation of Trifa—and informed Dr. Kremer that the case would be reopened.

As to Bishop Trifa's membership in the board of directors of the National Council of Churches, a past president of this organization was asked four years ago what would be the result if it were proven that among board members there is a foreign agent.

"If he were appointed by his denomination, there is nothing the Council can do," explained Dr. Cynthia Wedel.

Since this ecumenical laissez faire apparently applies to the possible membership of a Nazi war criminal, Congress—as well as the public at large—should take cognizance of these membership standards and judge all pronouncements of this body accordingly.

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