

Horse sense

By

ERNEST V. JOINER

Today is my second anniversary, two years ago today, June 12, I migrated to Heppner, Oregon. There was something fascinating about this small community in Eastern Oregon, that urged me to return, after my first visit the previous month. When I returned to California in May, I found myself telling my friends of my plans to return to Oregon. When they asked where I was going, I replied, "Heppner." Looking rather puzzled they would ask the geographical location of Heppner. Unfamiliar with the surrounding areas and the small communities in the county, I usually answered, "Heppner is not far from Pendleton." My friends then asked, "Where is Pendleton?" The only answer I could muster was, "Heppner and Pendleton are in Eastern Oregon." Most of my friends wanted to know something of this small community I had chosen for my future home. I knew Heppner was a farming community and from the Chamber of Commerce literature I had enough information to tell my friend of the skiing, hunting and fishing conditions in the area.

Upon my arrival I soon made inquiries about various projects in the community, and was amazed at the manner in which they were completed.

I soon learned that a man's word is his bond. When a man says he is going to do something, he does it. One thing that surprised me was the lack of serious crime in the area. What little crime did exist was punished with severe sentences. Few attorneys appealed the judge's decisions. When the judge asked if you were either guilty or innocent, he expected an answer. If you answered guilty, you were either sentenced to jail, fined or both, depending on the severity of the crime. If you answered not guilty, a trial date was set by the judge, usually for the preceding week. If a jury trial was ordered, seven to eight people appeared as jurors. After they were seated the judge would disqualify either one or two persons, leaving six persons on the jury.

I soon found myself getting more and more involved with city politics, some of the issues I criticized, others I disagreed with, but I soon learned the people of Heppner have their own way of doing things. When the \$450,000 water bond issue came before the voters, I did not think it had a chance of passing, but it did, by a five to one vote.

Today after two years in the community, I am constantly asked one question, "Do you really like Heppner?" The answer is, "Yes." The people are honest, hard working and will go out of their way to help one another. Another question continually asked is, "Do you miss California?" The only things I miss in California are my two children and some very close friends.

I have lived enough of my life in the big cities of California, and I am now content with the simple way of life in Heppner. I feel the same as Bill Weatherford, who once told me, "There are a lot of things I don't like about this town, but you couldn't drive me out of here with a stick." So when I get nasty letters telling me to leave the community alone and go back to California, I have to chuckle because most of the letter writers have lived in California. The only difference is they have resided in Heppner for a longer period of time than me.

Having lived here only two years I guess I am not expected to form any opinions about either the city or the county government, let alone express them in the newspaper. We have been doing the same things for many years, so why change? Perhaps an outsider notices things in a different perspective than the person who has lived here most of his life. If I believe changes are in order and will benefit the majority, I will continue to express my beliefs through the news media. The adage, "What was good enough for my father or grandfather is good enough for me is nonsense." I haven't seen a farmer plowing with mules for quite some time.

When I ran for the position on the city council, I was asked by a citizen, "I have lived here for the past 30 years and have never served on the council, so why should you want to serve on the city council?" I replied, "I couldn't live in a community for 30 years and not be interested in city government, besides the hours are short and the pay is good."

Heppner is a fine community; however, most of the residents don't appreciate what it has to offer. They take it matter of factly. To an outsider, especially an ex-Californian, I have enjoyed every minute of my past two years in this community. Now if some of the irate citizens will put out the fire under the tar pot and stop drying feathers, I would like to be able to continue this peaceful life and perhaps celebrate my third anniversary in Heppner.

Petrocelli, star of a television series has come to Heppner. In the TV series, Petrocelli has an assortment of signs he places on the windshield of his car to avoid placing money in parking meters. Recently a law officer was spied parking his private car within the city limits. He carefully removed a parking violation from his car and placed it under the wiper blade of his car, then proceeded to do some shopping. A merchant who receives more than his share of parking violations saw the officers hanky-panky and decided to add some humor to the situation. Awaiting his chance, the merchant placed three of his own parking violations under the officers wiper blades, then left. When the officer returned he found the four parking violations. He hurried to city hall and reported the incident to the city police.

A city policeman who knew the merchant's license number returned the parking violations to their rightful owner. Meanwhile, the law officer retrieved his own ticket and returned it to his private car for use at another time. All this to avoid feeding the meters. . . Such chicanery!



"Say, Charlie...In The New Brochure... Is It Too Late To Change 'Forefathers' To 'Forepersons'?"



Slow Leak In The Big Balloon...

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

Mr. E.C., who now seems to be attempting to fill the shoes of Mr. E.J., has apparently undertaken a personal crusade to identify all of the weaknesses of education in general, and BMCC and the Morrow County Schools in particular. The last few "Horse Sense" columns have contained a lot of drivel on this subject and while the author repeatedly makes statements which he says are based on facts, the facts are that most of his statements are his own opinion and have little, if any, factual supporting data.

I certainly do not mean to imply that E.C. is not entitled to express his opinions. I do feel, however, that responsible journalism requires that personal opinions be stated as such and not referred to as facts.

The statements contained in the "Horse Sense" column of the May 19 issue were quite obviously written from a defensive standpoint and seemed to indicate that several people had expressed opinions that were not in agreement with those expressed by E.C. I also realize that several people do agree with at least part of the criticisms contained in the article.

Repeated twice in the article was the statement, "I am not interested—". In both instances the meaning seemed to be that "I have my mind made up, don't confuse me with facts." Since facts do not seem to interest you, and my opinion would obviously be biased, there is no point in my rebutting any of your statements. Let me rather direct my attention to some of the statistics you so freely quoted without really understanding what it was you were saying.

I have no argument with the percentage of taxes collected for schools in Morrow County, and I have no argument with the costs per student which you listed for Morrow County Schools.

However, you then made reference to an article that appeared in the Heppner Gazette Times the week preceding. The article to which you referred contained statistics compiled by the Social and Economic Statistics Administration. The article stated that in Morrow County 34 per cent of the expenditures made by local government agencies went for education. The article also said that the average for the state of Oregon was 36 per cent.

You then chose to apply the E.C. interpretation and indicated that the figure in Morrow County was 73.23 per cent. I assume this was an honest error on your part due to lack of knowledge and was not an intentional effort to mislead the people into believing that education in Morrow County was roughly 20 per cent higher than the state average.

What you failed to consider was that total budget expenditures and taxes collected are not the same.

In 1970 I did a study in Morrow County on all local government budgets. The study showed that while schools collected 74.5 per cent of the total tax dollar, the total budget for education accounted for only 34.8 per cent of the total local government budgets. A copy of the study has been enclosed for your information.

The difference between the two percentages is that other governmental agencies receive a higher portion of their income from sources other than the local property tax. However, state funds, federal funds, and user's fees are still tax dollars or equivalent to taxes.

If you care to check, you will find that most counties have local property tax levies which provide between 70 and 80 per cent to education. I do not have the 1974 figures, but in 1973 the percentages of taxes levied for school purposes in Morrow County was 72.11 per cent and in Umatilla County it was 74.39 per cent.

It would, therefore, seem that based on statistics correctly interpreted, Morrow County schools compare rather favorably with other Oregon counties.

The column also contained the statement, "One fact is certain, we have the most expensively educated students in the State of Oregon." To this factual statement I can only say "poppycock." It is a matter of State Department of Education record that many districts have higher per student costs than does Morrow County - some in Umatilla County, as a matter of fact. I do not deny that costs in Morrow County are high. Education in sparsely populated areas with small schools are always high.

I, personally, would not resent your criticizing education in general, but your attacks on the Morrow County School System does a tremendous disservice to those teachers, administrators, and board members who have labored many years to improve the schools. My children attend school in Morrow County, and I am very pleased with the education they are receiving.

I suggested in just a few years ago that the "Horse Sense" column should display the other end of the horse. I now make that same suggestion in a serious vein.

Ron Daniels
Boardman

I am not trying to fill EJ's shoes. No one can

EDITOR:

To all who have inquired about our phone: This is a continuation of the problems we have had with our mobile phone service. Some seem to think the situation is funny, others tragic. It all depends on your own past experience with phone service. Also whether you are involved with trying to communicate with us for any reason. Well here goes.

I left off last time with May 9, so we will pick it up with May 11th.

May 11—a.m. tried to call Ione—couldn't get out, later the phone worked fine. 9 p.m. phone rang—answered it—got a beeping sound.

May 12-called Hermiston-call went thru then was cut off in the middle of conversation, tried to call back, couldn't get out. I went to Hermiston in the pickup. Jerald called the shop in Hermiston to give me a list of parts he needed. He was cut off. I tried to call him from Hermiston 5 times. Some of them didn't ring in, others would ring in but when he would answer the call wouldn't go thru. W. Karnopp called from the Boardman office, the call went thru and the phone worked fine. My brother tried to call 5 times, he NEVER did get thru. Sometimes it was ringing in but when Jerald would answer the phone would keep on ringing. Some times call didn't even ring.

May 13-Jerald's brother called-cut off-he called back and the phone worked fine.

May 14-a.m. dialed Hermiston number 3 times. Twice he received a Boardman recording saying the number was out of service, to call operator. Once nothing happened. 5th time it rang right thru to extension office. (Come to find out they had been trying for 3 days to call us.) Called Ford dealer-1st time got a recording-said it was a bad number. Second time the call went right thru. Called extension office back-call went thru with no problems. 10:30 a.m. I took the car to Boardman to have phone worked on. At 3:30 phone Co. brought car home. I then took phone man back to town. While he was still at the ranch Jerald tried to call out-he got a recording-the phone man said that problem was in the office. Then he tried and had the same problem. 3rd time the call went thru. 4:30-we tried to call Pendleton, phone wouldn't work, switched to Pilot Rock channel and placed the call. We then tried to make a local Boardman call-still not working. 6:30 called Ione on Boardman channel and the phone worked fine.

May 15-8 a.m. phone rang-answered it and got the dial tone-hung up-phone rang again-this time we got morse code. 6:30 p.m. phone rang-again morse code.

May 16th-11:30 a.m. phone rang-morse code. I called P.R. He tried to call me on both channels, the phone rang but when I answered it, it kept right on ringing. I called him back, he said to call Boardman for repair-I tried only to find out I couldn't get out on the local channel. I called him back and asked him to report it. I was working out in the fields that day and couldn't get away to take the car to town. The phone man came to the house and worked on the phone.

May 17-10:30 a.m. I placed a local call, it worked fine-about 10 min. later I started the car and the transmitter light came on and stayed on until I turned the car off.

May 18-11 a.m. Mother called-I could hear her fine-she couldn't hear me at all. She hung up and I called her. The phone worked fine, only problem we both had to pay for a long distance call.

May 20-I was home all day-my neighbor tried to call several times, none of the calls rang in.

May 21—Home all day—again the neighbor tried several times to call and none of the calls came through.

May 19-24 No calls had come thru—we could call out fine. May 24—8 p.m. A call came from Boardman came through.

May 26—Hay buyer tried to call—no results. May 27—Same as 26th. We could still call out fine but we weren't receiving any calls.

May 28—p.m. we found the horn wasn't working. May 29—a.m. I took the car in to have the phone checked. Was told to take the car to a garage to have the horn system checked. No one in Boardman had the time to check it out. I then took it to Hermiston. One of the garages in town worked on it for about one hour but couldn't locate the problems. He suggested I take it to another garage in town. I checked with them but they couldn't look at it until Monday morning. During this time we had the beeper in the car on so if someone tried to call while I was in the car at least then the call would go through.

May 31—10 p.m. Beeper sounded, when we answered we got the morse code. 10 minutes later it rang again with the same results.

I do have a plea, if anyone has any ideas on how to solve our problem with our phone, we are open to any and all suggestions.

JERALD & LEANN REA
Lexington

Mayor of Hardman

MISTER EDITOR:

The fellers at the country store Saturday night was concerned about the state of the states and cities, namely Texas and New York City. Bug Hookum had been reading up on this plan to make five states out of the Lone Star State, and Ed Doolittle brought in a clipping about New York City going broke. After studying these situations up one side and down the others, the fellers was general agreed they're the same.

Bug said he knew talk of splitting up Texas come up even afore she was a state, and the idee has been around since. Most of the push comes from the kind of folks that don't like anything the way it is, Bug allowed, but there has been some serious debate on the matter. Right now, he said, "splithood" is about as strong as it ever has been, cause the reasons are clearer than ever.

Some feller in the state legislature said if Texas was split into five states they could outvote the whole of New England in the U.S. Senate, and Bug allowed that he is afraid that what the feller was meaning is that Texas can divide and conquer all them federal agencies. Five states could git five times the grants that one state can, he figgers.

Actual, Bug said, he is strong agin the idee. He said we are supposed to be the states united, but this don't mean we got to water down all the power of our states and bow and scrape to Washington fer everthing from school lunches to highways. Bug said he was yet to see anything done in Washington that come back to the states that couldn't of been done better by the states in the first place.

Per instant, Bug said, the Federal Government ain't satisfied to spent \$60 billion more a year than it takes in, it keeps making up rules fer the states to live by that can't be lived with. The Medicare system has got so fouled up, Bug said, til North Carolina had to hire a private computer outfit to keep her Medicare records. It looks like the states will have to spend billions of their money to git back millions they send to Washington, and Bug said it don't take a private computer to figger the odds on a deal like that. Counties are saving they can come out cheaper paying the post office to sell their federal food stamps than to handle the paperwork themselves. Bug reported.

Ed said he weren't no wonder to him that New York City needs a billion dollars to pay her bills this month. The cities has been caught in the same trap with the states, and New York must be spending ever cent she can git to qualify fer all them federal urban renewal and clean water grants. Ed allowed.

What New York City ought to do, went on Ed, is raise the state debt limit and print her own money to cover the difference. There's no end to good ideas coming out of Washington. Ed said.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.



Religious sex: Porn's new frontier

By LESTER KINSOLVING

Are we on the threshold of another Great Religious Revival?

Well, one of Hollywood's most outstanding religious group leaders, Miss Jane Russell, who electrified the post-War War II religious boom by announcing that "God is a living doll," has once more spoken out.

Miss Russell, Howard Hughes' great box office mammal, has now stated, according to Esquire magazine, that she would like to sit in Jesus' lap and tweak his nose.

Not to be outdone, Danish film producer Jens Joergen Thorsen has disclosed that his forthcoming epic, "The Loves of Jesus Christ," will feature a great deal more public intimacy than mere lap-sitting nose-tweakers.

Taste has not altogether perished, however. For the Government of France has refused to allow this atrocity to be filmed on French soil. And a national poll of Denmark (whose citizens are no more blue-nosed in reputation than the French) reveals that two-thirds of Thorsen's fellow citizens disapprove of this obscene blasphemy.

Alleging that Jesus had a secret love life is rather old stuff, however outrageous it is to the sensibilities of millions of his devout followers.

D. H. Lawrence plumbed the depths of this divine lust motif with his detailed titillation in a myth about Jesus' seduction by a temple prostitute. Nikos Kazantzakis also found this theme profitable in his priapistic "Last Temptation of Christ," described by University of Southern California philosophy professor Geddes MacGregor as:

"Seeing Jesus constantly on the edge of fornication, but heroically resisting it."

The Rev. Dr. MacGregor, who is also Canon Theologian of St. Paul's Cathedral in Los Angeles, notes:

"If modern New Testament scholarship has shown us anything at all, it is surely that we know much less than our forefathers thought they knew about the details even of Our Lord's public life."

MacGregor zeroes in on the latest in a long and tiresome series of hot pseudo-scholarly books such as "Passover Plot" or John Allegro's ludicrous contention that Jesus was really a great mushroom.

"William Phipps knows the most intimate details of the private life of Our Lord," notes MacGregor in a living church magazine review of Phipps' new book, "The Sexuality of Jesus."

And added, "Out of his unlimited store of dogmas, Phipps claims that Jesus was, of course, married."

(Of course, "Was Jesus Married?" was Phipps' last book.)

"Jesus, Phipps thinks, was for sex . . ." comments MacGregor. "The champion of all who want to rid themselves of the disease of asceticism and virus of self-sacrifice. After a while one almost wonders, indeed, whether there were not originally a ninth beatitude . . . makarioi hoi pornoi ('Blessed are the fornicators')."

Then, fully regretting that Phipps is chairman of the Department of Religion at a college related to the Presbyterian Church (Davis and Elkins, in West Virginia), MacGregor concludes with the humorous disdain that such books deserve:

"Goodbye, Mr. Phipps."

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