

Horse sense

By
ERNEST V. JOINER

● A couple of years ago this newspaper mounted a bruising campaign against parking meters in the city. It was a logical, brilliant, inspired presentation. To wind it up the citizens were polled on the question of removing the parking meters. About 150 people voted 5 to 1 to remove them. Virtue, at long last, was about to triumph. Then the city council, members of which are pledged to carry out the wishes of their constituents (if they happen to agree with them), promptly voted to retain them. So much for newspaper crusades. So much for civic virtue.

● Two years later the Gazette-Times is ready to admit its error in asking removal of the parking meters. They should be allowed to remain. Before long, Heppner will be the only town in Oregon (and maybe the world) with parking meters. Then they can be bronzed, declared a historic monument, and made a part of the United States Bicentennial museum of the past. In 20 years school youngsters may be given field trips to Heppner to see these famous and historic hitching posts—just as they are now provided field trips at taxpayer expense to see the famous Shakespearean Festival at Ashland. It makes me shudder when I think how near we all came to getting rid of our only feasible claim to fame, aside from the '03 flood. It just proves that our councilmen are endowed with more wisdom than we credited them with.

● Only recently the city of LaGrande hooded 400 meters on a 90-day trial basis to find out if it would create bedlam in the central business district. Retail stores will be asked to compare their sales for the 3-month period with those of the same period in 1974. If the results are the same as other cities of America that did the same thing, they will show that the stores never sold more goods, shoppers were never happier, and the city cussed a lot less. And the meters will stay out. And that's another step toward making Heppner's hitching posts genuine relics of the past, worthy of preservation. Now we're on a crusade to get all the other cities to take out their meters, and for Heppner to leave her's intact. Our thanks (and apologies) to the Heppner City Council for standing fast in the face of the Gazette-Times' ill-advised and short-sighted crusade.

● It's too bad more people don't read their newspapers. If you had read our leading daily recently you'd know that on the West Coast women are using Preparation H to shrink their wrinkles. This woman said it really works, only she finds that when she gets tired her face tries to sit down. Then there's Stanfield, the town that became internationally famous overnight when the city council enacted an ordinance forbidding animals to enjoy sex in public. It worked a hardship on ranchers, some of whom had to check their heifers into a motel in order to insure a calf crop and still stay legal. Now the town's in an uproar again. Cody, a dog belonging to the Dennis McLaughlin family, gave birth to four puppies on July 10 and the chief of police has complained that the dog violated the ordinance. Cody has defied the council. She even nurses her four offspring, and right in public, too! Contempt, that's what it is.

● And those who do read newspapers don't have much confidence in them. For example, this newspaper has consistently criticized the public schools for their failure to teach children to read and write, as they did so well 50 years ago. We have called for taxpayers to turn down any further requests for classrooms, higher teacher salaries and fancy educational frills until students show signs of being able to read and write and figure simple interest. We were accused of conducting a sneaky, despicable vendetta against "the kids." Well, if you read the editorial page of the Oregon Journal on July 24 you would have read of a survey conducted (not by a newspaper) but by the academically respected National Assessment of Educational Progress and paid for by the National Center for Education Statistics. The guts of the article: "Less than one-half of the 17-year-olds and adults could successfully determine the most economical size of a product. Only 10 per cent of the 17-year-olds and 20 per cent of the adults could correctly calculate taxi fare. One per cent of the 17-year-olds and 16 per cent of the adults could balance a checkbook." That tells the story of our educational system, arrived at by a survey of 34,000 17-year-olds and 4,200 adults. Morrow County is being prepared for a million-dollar school building and remodeling project in September. As far as I know not one dollar will go toward improving the school children's capability to read, write and balance their check books. Are we putting our school tax dollars in the right places? And how can one little old weekly newspaper be so consistently wrong. Believe me, it's disheartening.

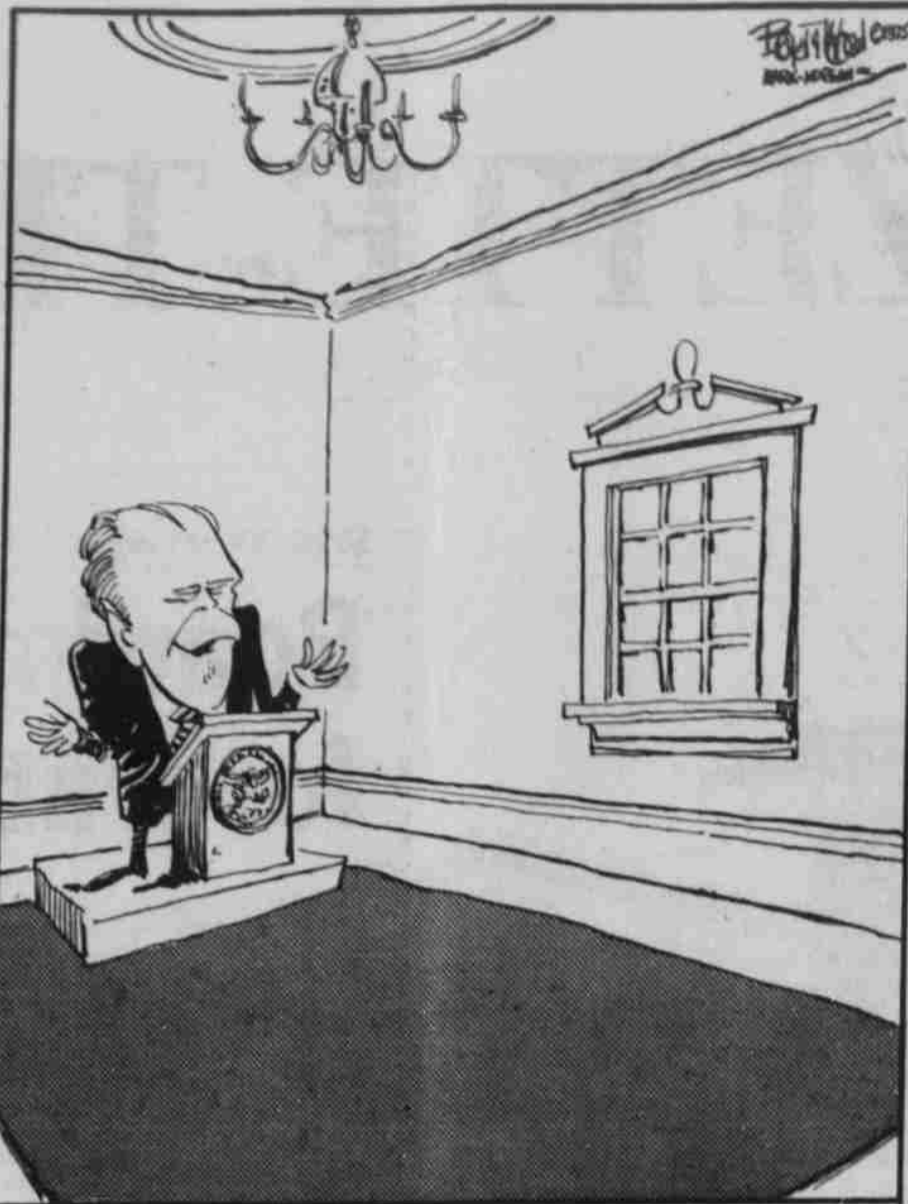
● Now that the city has tied the new water well into the water supply system, all is not sweetness in Heppner households where clean, good-tasting water has been the rule. The new well, it turns out, produces sulphured water. The stench is "outtastic." It is curing some people from drinking water, and should increase the wine consumption. Bill Collins says it's a fine howdydo when you spend \$350,000 for a new water system and it gets crossed up with a sewer. He says everybody around his house went around casting accusing glances at each other before they found out the stench was coming from sprinklers at work on the lawn. Another wag (who, as usual, declines to be quoted) injected a biblical note into the sulphuric comment by shouting that what we're going through here is just a sample of how bad it's going to be in hell. Nobody is taking him seriously, of course.

The Heppner Volunteer Fire Department is one of the best organized groups I have ever seen. By the time the fire alarm sounds, until the trucks are rolling is a matter of minutes. Last Monday they answered a fire call to the John Ledbetter ranch. When they arrived at the Ledbetter Ranch the fire was across Sand Hollow Rd., on the Don Evans ranch. Fortunately the fire was contained by the time the volunteers arrived with their equipment. Had the fire still been raging when the fire department arrived at the wrong location the results could have been disastrous. The fire department would not have been at fault. Whoever phoned in the wrong location should realize that the fire equipment is old, the roads are narrow and winding and the trucks cannot travel at excessive speeds. The fire department is willing to help you 24 hours a day, so give them some consideration, at least give them the correct location in the event of a fire.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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"You Are Probably Wondering Why I've Called This Meeting Of Supporters Of My Energy Program..."

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

I would like to make an addition to an article in last week's Gazette-Times regarding living relatives to the Cecil family settlers of earlier days.

Only three of the family were mentioned. The late Norah Rasmus was the granddaughter of the settlers of Cecil, OR. Her surviving family includes nephews, John Cecil, Walla Walla, WA.; Darrel Cecil, Meacham, OR.; Vernon Cecil, Pilot Rock, OR.; Frank Cecil, Spray, OR.; Percy Cecil, Heppner, Or.; as well as nieces Geraldine Gates, Spray, OR. and Nadine Dysart, Walla Walla. Great nieces and nephews include Kay Gorham, Heppner; Gordon Cecil, Heppner; Jerry Cecil, Heppner; Ron Cecil, Pendleton; Norine Edwards, Pendleton; Gene Cecil, Meacham; Becky Cecil, Meacham; Judy Alfred, Spray; and Jan Stroeber, Heppner. The family would appreciate these additions being made.

NORINE EDWARDS,
Pendleton.

Court house notes

Last week Juvenile Director Carolyn Davis took four from the county to visit the Oregon State Penitentiary and the Oregon Women's Correctional Center at Salem. The two young people and Heppner Policemen, Chuck Holt and Wayne Maxam, who made this one-day tour with Director Davis were very impressed with the institutions.

The County Planning Department has issued zoning permits for buildings to Ernest and Lois Winchester for a dwelling east of Heppner; to Robert and Sally Diehl for a residence near Ordinance; to W.E. Nelson for a soil lab, office and truck scale off the three-mile interchange south of Highway 80; to Donald Kamph for a mobile home shed at Ordinance; two permits to Retha McCall for residences in the Irrigon area; to Taggares-Simplot for a scale house and office near Boardman; and to Donald L. Linnel, Boardman, for a larger mobile home.

Assessor Everett Harshman spent July 21, 22 and 23 in Medford meeting with 32 other county assessors and with the State Department of Revenue.

The three women in the southeast corner, first floor, are still doing a bit of furniture re-arranging. Treasurer McDaniel says she keeps busy with daily postings; assistant tax collector Fetsch seems to have constant re-indexing, a never-ending job. Mrs. Irby, who holds a new position put into operation July 1, has had her salary as county tax collector established by the county court.

Other court business which was conducted at the regular meeting in Irrigon last week, included the acceptance of a bid to blacktop the old and new car parking lots near the courthouse. An agreement

was reached to rebuild and straighten and resurface the taxiway at the Lexington Airport from the landing strip to the lagoon area. This will be done with airport improvement funds already in the airport account.

The court heard representatives Shirley and Zearl Gillespie, from the Boardman Cemetery District requesting information on the use of a strip of property along Columbia Avenue.

A request from the County Planning Commission for tuition fees for several members of the commission to attend a short course in Eugene was approved. The court also approved a new fee schedule for the Planning Department.

During office hours last Thursday Judge Jones performed a wedding uniting Faith Elaine Elizabeth Johns with Larry Lee Ulrich.

NAVAL GRADUATE

Coast Guard Ensign Normal W. Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Williams of Lexington, OR, was graduated from Aviation Indocination School at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL.

The three-week course includes instruction in basic aerodynamics, aviation physiology and engineering.

Students also undergo extensive physical fitness training and learn land and sea survival techniques. Upon graduation, they proceed to an advanced phase of the Naval Aviation Program, leading toward their destination as naval aviators.

A 1974 graduate of Portland State University with a Masters degree in History, he joined the Navy in February 1975.

YCC Program nears season's completion

After their Strawberry Mountain weekend trip of July 19 and 20, the Youth Conservation Corps group camped at Tupper and had a busy week working and learning.

Monday and Tuesday, they worked at the C.C.C. Spring, the Skookum game enclosure, Nine-Top Spring restoration and camp cleanup. Copple Butte Trail and on fence roll up at Long Prairie.

These evenings they learned about cattle ranching from Dick Wilkenson and about range management from Shirley Rugg and Art Galbraith.

Wednesday and Thursday, the work crews were at pumper ponds on Alder and Swale Creeks and doing cold patching at Bull Prairie and continuing fence roll up at North Jones Prairie. Wednesday evening after dinner there were interest sessions and softball. Thursday evening some of the campers came to Heppner.

Friday's work included preparing barrier posts (limbing, peeling and notching), finishing work at Nine-Top Spring and Government Spring, and working at Tupper on the fuel break and painting the shower complex. That evening the groups prepared for small-group weekend activities which gave them the choice of gold panning in the Elkhorn Range, floating on the Minam, or returning to the Strawberry Mountains.

This week Monday, they continued working at Fairview Camp, painting tables at Bull Prairie and at Penland Lake where they also worked on picnic sites and did slash piling on the entrance road. This Tuesday they installed barrier posts and painted at Fairview, continued various projects at Bull Prairie and Penland Lake, and had a softball and volleyball game with the Forest Service Fire Crew campers from Opal Meadow.

Yesterday and today they continued working at Bull Prairie graveling trails, cleaning up the entire picnic grounds and piling slash. Last evening they had free time after dinner and tonight they have the option of coming to Heppner.

Tomorrow, Aug. 1, they will learn of erosion control and will observe the Elkhorn timber sale as well as get in some work at Fairview and Bear Creek. They will join in the dancing at the Hardman Hall in the evening. Saturday, Aug. 2 will be a work day at Skookum and Bull Prairie where they will finish barrier posts and bumper logs. Saturday evening they will review slides and video tapes of this year's camp experiences.

Next Sunday their final week begins with a restful morning, guests for a barbecue dinner at 1 p.m. and with instruction on fisheries management from Errol Claire of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in the evening. Monday will be given to field experience in fisheries management under Errol Claire and to stream cleanup and habitat improvement in the area. That evening after dinner, Ralph Burcham will instruct them on trapping techniques and pelt preparation. Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 6 and 7, campers will do work on Wilson Creek on stream cleanup and habitat improvement and do some erosion seeding. Next week Thursday is labeled "Finish all Projects Day." That evening when they come to Heppner the campers will sing for the patients at the Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Their final day and evening, Aug. 8, will be devoted to Tupper Camp cleanup. After Friday's dinner they will have a campfire ceremony to end their summer experience. On Saturday they will all depart for home by 11 a.m. Heppner District Ranger Sam Miller says that this second year's YCC Camp gained from the first year's experience. He states that "the campers have learned many outdoor skills and some have grown considerable in self-confidence. They have seen much of this part of the state. They have worked on many projects that were helpful to the Forest Service." Ranger Miller says that it is impossible to tell if the program will be continued next year as it depends on federal funds being available. He anticipates that because the program has been so worthwhile it may continue. He praised the planning done by Dave Olcott, camp director.

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VISIT ON BIRTHDAY

Weekend guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Padberg were Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Tucker, Salem; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Ross, Canby; Eldon Tucker and family, Ione; and Teresa White and daughter, Sabrina, Pendleton. All were visiting to celebrate Mrs. Padberg's birthday, July 22. Her family surprised her with a silver dollar for every year. A drop in guest was Juanita Moore of Hermiston.

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

I been going to church fairly regular since my Pa didn't give me no choice in the matter. I kept on going after I grewed up and my old lady give me somepun of a fighting chanct to decide fer myself whuther to go to preaching or face the consequences, meaning her, not to mention the Devil.

I even took in the services during my short hitch in the first war to end all wars, when I had plenty of reasons not to. I would say I've gone to church all my life, but I hope I ain't yet.

After all this time I can truthful say it's a habit I'm thankful I never broke. Herbert Hoover liked to say that the Good Lord don't count the time a feller spends fishing, and I like to think that would hold fer setting in church. I allus took the view that church was fer the here more than the hereafter. I figger if I do my best with this life, the next one will take care of itself.

I mention going to church because one of the fellers come to the meeting at the country store Saturday night with this report by a marriage counselor at Purdue University.

Dr. Wallace Denton there says what folks need to keep their marriages healthy is more fights.

I am full agreed with him, because what he's talking about is talking out your problems instead of sulking over em. He said as long as you fight fair and give the other party as much as you take, you'll build a strong bond between you.

Me and my old lady have been carrying on like that as long as we been together, and even now when she gives more than I can take I ease out of the bind by deciding I got pressing business to take care of out of earshot. In a little while, the storm passes and we're both ready to deal the cards fer the next hand.

Mister Editor, the church builds on this same kind of fighting. You get a bunch of different people together and you're bound to have difference of opinions. But the church is one place where if you don't agree with somebody, you try to You find a way to get around the differences because you want to. You know it's fer everybody's good that you do, so you do.

To give you some idee, my old lady and the wimmen in her church circle have been fighting among themselves as long as I've known em. They squabble about this and that six days a week and they praise the Lord together on Sunday, and through it all they are the best of friends.

I recall onct the men in the church fell out about putting a kitchen in the basement. All we could agree on was that we'd better let the wimmen work it out. We did and they planned the kitchen to everybody's satisfaction.

I ain't an expert on religion or married life, but I am of a mind that fighting flavored with love is good for whatever ails both of em.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.

MONUMENT NEWS

Mrs. Bud Engle

Miss Sherry Pflugrod, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edvern Pflugrod of Hamilton, and Mr. Gary Schultz were married June 30 at Aldrich Park in Pendleton.

They are living in Hamilton where he is employed by the bride's parents.

A shower was given the newlyweds July 20 at the Oral Leathers home in Long Creek.

Dorothy Jordan and Arthur Gienger were married July 5 at Winnemucca, NV. The groom is the son of Mrs. Crystal Gienger. The couple are living on his ranch which was formerly known as the George Gienger place.

Crystal Gienger has moved to John Day where she is employed.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Enoch Jr. of Ritter are the parents of a daughter, Angela Ann, born June 28 at Pendleton Community Hospital. The infant weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Heise of Monument and maternal great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Heise of Ritter.

Bill and Joe Elder and Vera Gardner of John Day attended the Snake River Stampede at Boise last week. Vera Gardner spent several days with her aunt, Mattie Stubblefield, before returning to her home in John Day.

Mrs. Gary Engle accompanied her mother, Mrs. Joava Enright to Bend Monday to be with her sister, Mrs. Dave Rounds of John Day. Mrs. Rounds underwent surgery resulting from injuries she received in a one-car accident between John Day and Mount Vernon Sunday night. She was flown to Bend.

Mrs. Bob Blakeslee of the Rudio Ranch suffered a broken arm Monday from a fall at the ranch.

Mrs. Wanda Miller returned home July 19 after spending a month visiting her mother at Kress, TX and relatives in Amarillo. She returned by way of California, visiting in Santa Barbara and Bishop.

Her daughter Nicki, who drove back with her mother, returned to her home in Salem by plane earlier.

Mrs. Fred Shanks left Monday for Fall River Mills, Ca to spend the week with her mother Mrs. Percy Creighton.

Jerry Cupper, Portland, and son Cody, Seattle, WA, visited his grandmother, Mrs. Mattie Stubblefield and other relatives Thursday while enroute to LaGrande to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cupper.

Scott is stationed at Coronado Naval Air Base. He was married April 6 to Miss Melissa Hall. This will be the couple's first visit home since their marriage.

Mrs. George Stubblefield, Mrs. Jim Stubblefield and Mrs. Leonard Osborne are planning a household shower for the newlyweds at 2 p.m., Friday, Aug. 1 at the city park.

Three ranches were sold last winter and spring so there are some new members. Bob Blakeslee and Sherman Perkins of Montana purchased the Rudio Ranch from Bill McPherson. The Riels, from Dallas, OR bought the Johnny Shaw place (formerly known as the Joe Foss place) and Art Leyendekker, Yakima Valley, purchased the Jessie Emery ranch.

The Harold Reynolds and Norris Stubblefield families and Charles Barn spent last weekend camping at Bull Prairie.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Peterson and sons, Ture and Lonnie spent last weekend at the home of Mrs. Tad Hardesty, Eugene.

The occasion was the seventy-fifth birthday of Mrs. Hardesty's mother, Mrs. Esther Dobbins. Mrs. Dobbins is Mr. Peterson's aunt. She was a resident of Morrow County for many years.

Roy Peterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Peterson, went to Pasco Sunday, July 20. He passed his flying test and received his private pilot license.

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