

As I See It

BY NEIL PARKS

The Horse Sense column, as it can only be written by Mr. Joiner, will only carry the works of EVJ. Any other copy that may fill this space will bear whatever heading chosen by the author and will also carry the name of the party responsible for the content. This way when you want to chew, you know who to chew on.

It apparently doesn't take much if any excuse to raise the price of consumer goods. Take the present controversy over the grain purchase by the Russians. Some are making claims this will raise the cost of related food products but why? Last year when wheat was near the \$5 per bushel level, the cost of bread and cereal products took a jump. A couple of months ago when wheat was at the \$3 a bushel figure, bread and cereal products didn't go down. Why then should they use the excuse of \$4 wheat to again raise bread prices? Apparently this year's crop of wheat is exceeding any crop in history and those who should know say there is no shortage to create a price increase. This appears to be just another opening for big business to further gouge the poor working man.

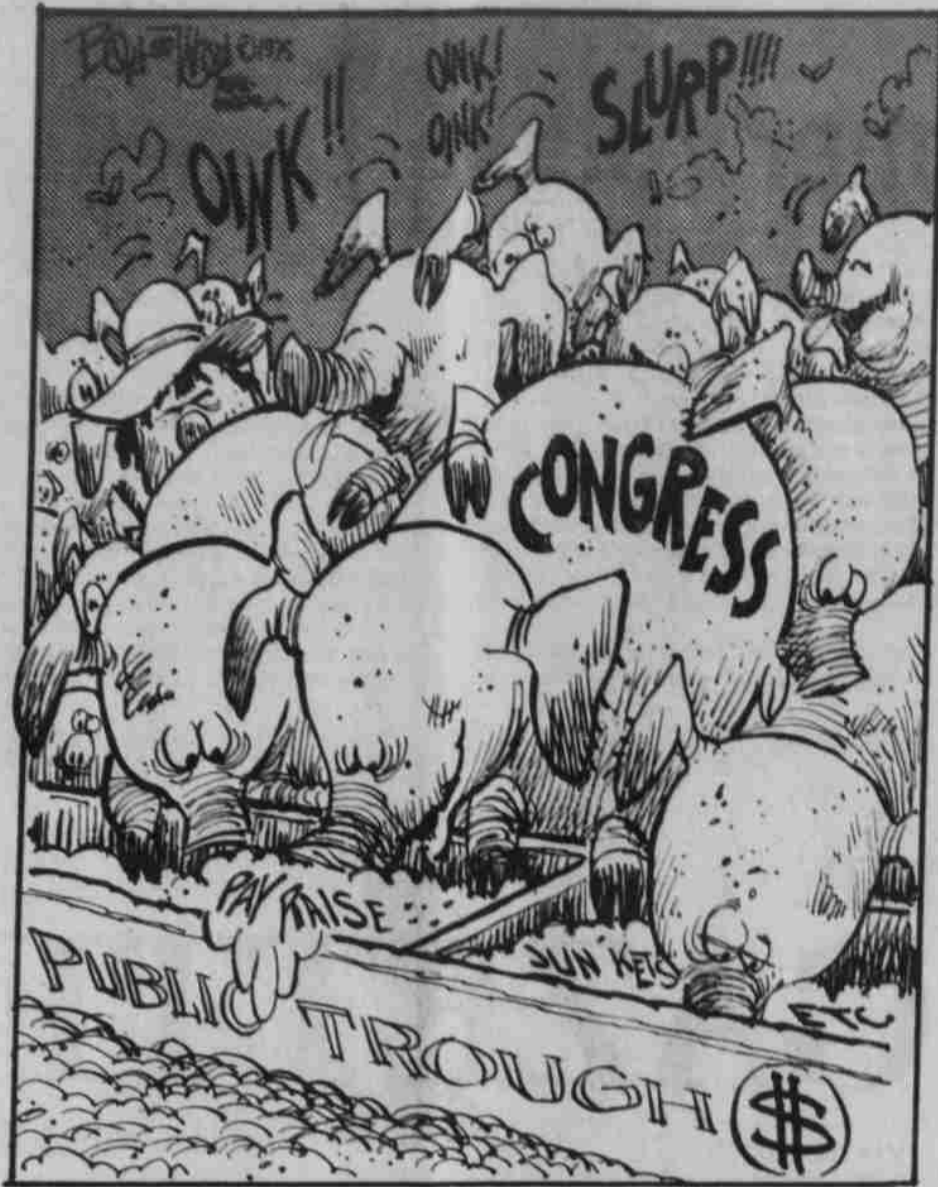
I can see another excuse coming that will probably in the very near future raise the cup of coffee to 25 cents at the local level. There has been reports of a frost in some of the coffee growing areas that will substantially affect the supply of beans. Perhaps this is a legitimate excuse yet we have no way of knowing the amount in storage if any, or what the production in other coffee areas will be. If our coffee goes to 25 cents and is as lousy as the 25 cent coffee I have had, I think it's time to switch to some other drink.

The consumer seems to be an unpredictable group. A year or two ago when beef prices finally went up enough to give the producer a few paltry pennies more for his product, the consumer revolted and picketed the markets. For years, nearly every year in fact, the price of cars has risen, yet no pickets. Only in recent months has the consumer revolted by not buying, but no demonstrations. The cost of "fun" and related products also has risen yet more and more recreation vehicles of all types are on the roads and tourism has yet to fall apart completely. Perhaps some moans about this but no outright protest. The poor farmer who gambles a tremendous investment, is at the mercy of mother nature and who has nothing to say about what he will get for the product he produces, is blamed for the high cost of food. This is the only business I know of that has nothing to say about the sale price yet must pay the asking price of whatever he purchases. Perhaps the best thing for concerned consumers would be to scrutinize the process and number of hands food products may pass through before he has a chance at it. Then picket and protest to the source of the high cost.

I suspect that farm products may pass through brokerages much like farm fertilizers. For example, a load of fertilizer may be sold by several different merchants in a matter of minutes, through the use of the telephone, and each transaction will command a higher price. It is usually sold several times before it reaches the retailer that finally sells it to the farmer for actual application. I don't really know, but I suspect that this process is used in the food products business as well. You can imagine the cost of a bushel of corn if sold two or three times before reaching the corn flakes company. Add the cost of processing, packaging, advertising, transportation and the inclusion of a trinket for junior and you can see why those little flakes are like gold. A little box of the crunchy stuff costs almost as much as the farmer got for a whole bushel. Oh well! we gotta eat.

It's probably a no, no to disagree with union leaders when they make the statement that union demands for higher wages and more fringe benefits has nothing to do with the increased cost of living. But I must disagree.

The merchants of Heppner should be commended for their efforts in following the Bicentennial theme with their window decorations. Articles on display from days past are of interest to all ages. It reminds many of "the good old days" and shows others what they missed. Seldom do you walk down the street that you don't see someone admiring or studying the displays. Many of the items have more than sentimental value also.



Never Have So Many Done So Little For So Much

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

On Aug. 3 the Willow Creek Girls Softball League officially closed its season with a double-header against Pendleton. I would like to congratulate the 15 All-star players from Ione and Heppner: Geri and Julie Grieb, Nancy Miller, Susan Gray, Kaedene Holloman, Linda Keithley, Darla Parker, Barbara Devine, Sandy Hudson, Janet McElligott, Michelle McElligott, Anne Murray, Cindy Kerr, Lori Harrison and Patty Huddleston. These girls played heads-up ball against a team of mostly 8th and 9th graders. They are a credit to the softball program and the community. Good job, girls!

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a special thanks to our fantastic coaches, Jerry Rood, Glen Ward and Mike Gray. Karen Beck and Monica Swanson, John Gochauer and Paul Murray spent countless hours working with these young people and did a tremendous job.

To all those people who "volunteered" to help in the officiating, our thanks. We couldn't play the game without you.

I would like to give a special thanks to some special people—the parents who brought their girls to practices and games at some inconvenience and who gave their moral, physical and financial help.

Our scorekeepers also deserve a word of thanks. Betty Rood, Marlene Gray, Karen Dubuque, Nancy Murray, Diana Kincaid, and Ginger Keithley faithfully attended the games and kept things in order.

There is one more person I'd like to give special credit to, Harold Kerr, our goodwill ambassador. Thanks for your time and help.

The Heppner-Ione-Lexington communities really owe these people a debt of gratitude for the hours and hours of time volunteered to work with, and support, these young people. So if you see them on the street, you might take a moment and say, "thanks."

MARTHA DOHERTY

My sweet home in Oregon

The following letter through a round about way was received by the extension office in Heppner. It had apparently been sent to the extension service at OSU and then forwarded here.

Last summer I went to the United States and stayed at a small town, Heppner, in Oregon for three weeks. Of course it was my first traveling abroad; everything I saw and heard there I can never forget.

When I arrived in Heppner, every one of the Laughlins, my host family, welcomed me heartily. But I was full of anxieties because everything was strange to me.

Next morning, however, I was greatly surprised, and felt happy, when Mrs. Laughlin came up to my room and said in a clear voice, "O-ha-yo!" I had never expected to be greeted in Japanese from a housewife in a small town in America. I was moved to know that she had learned the word for me. They were all ready to receive me not as a visitor but as a member of their family. So I soon felt myself at home, and I began to call Mr. and Mrs. Laughlin "Dad" and "Mom". Whenever they found something peculiar to America, they called me, saying "Reiko, come and see it." Also they often asked me, "Would you try it?" I positively tried everything; mowing in the garden, horse-riding, baking cookies and so on.

I was especially on good terms with Tamie, an older sister, and we sometimes sat

up till midnight, talking about our schools, studies, and our daily lives. Then we didn't feel even a bit that we were foreigners to each other.

Now I remember another wonderful experience in Heppner. I am fond of playing the piano. One day Dad's mother, who works at the hospital, happened to know it, and she eagerly asked me to play the piano for the old patients. Though I had no confidence at all, all of my family encouraged me to try, and at last I decided to do my best.

On the day, before the old patients I played heartily. After my playing was over, they all praised me, saying "Wonderful!" "Beautiful!" I had never dreamed that my poor performance would bring them such pleasure. I was happy, too. I was thankful to the audience and the Laughlins for giving me such a nice experience.

Time passed so quickly. The day came when I had to leave Heppner. Everyone I met said, "I'll miss you, Reiko." Tamie and I embraced each other, crying over our separation. Dad hugged me tenderly as if I was his own daughter. Mom said, "I don't like crying," and cried, too.

Yes, the Laughlins were a really wonderful family. I can still see and hear their bright faces and soft, happy vigorous voices. They are my dearest Dad, Mom and sisters. Heppner, Oregon, is my sweet hometown in the United States. Thank you.

—Reiko Ito

EDITOR:

It's almost time for the rodeo parade and time to start thinking about getting a band together. If we are to have a band marching in the parade we need all the parents getting their kids out and those parents that have played could dig their horns out of the closet to join us.

Last year I spent days making phone calls and making personal contact with people with almost no results. This year I get here from summer school almost on the day we need to have our first practice, so I won't be able to do any personal contacting.

It won't take much time. We will have two rehearsals, Wednesday, Aug. 20 and Thursday, Aug. 21. Anyone able to march and play a little is requested to make it if they can. If the turnout is like last year, we will have another quiet parade, but I know the people of Morrow County want to be proud of their annual celebration. Call a friend, let's get a big band together that we can all be proud of, Wednesday, Aug. 20 is the day that tells. It will be at 8 p.m. at the high school band room, so please make it.

JIM ACKLEY

Chamber sees film of wagon train

"In 40 years over 500,000 people made the migration across the Oregon Trail," said William Weatherford, as he addressed the Chamber of Commerce Monday.

He continued, "The desire to find new land and the discovery of gold in California, hastened the migration." The Oregon Trail is the longest graveyard in the world considering the number of people who perished and had to be buried along the now famous trail.

"The United States government thinks this is one of the greatest happenings in history. This is the reason behind the Bicentennial caravan making the journey in reverse," said Weatherford.

He spoke of Dr. Marcus Whitman making the trip in reverse to the capitol to impress upon the government the necessity of making the newly found area into a territory.

Weatherford had home movies of the Bicentennial Wagon Train making its appearance in Morrow County, taken by his nephew Snell Weatherford, which he showed to the members.

The movies show the placing of a concrete marker on the Gilliam-Morrow County line prior to its entrance at Cecil.

Leading the wagon train are the wagonmasters followed by the Bicentennial wagon, the State of Oregon Wagon and the Morrow County covered wagon. The Morrow County wagon was driven by Everett Keithley who started the drive in Morrow County and accompanied the wagon train to Umatilla County. With Keithley was his son-in-law Robert Harrison and his son, Todd.

The movies show the enormous crowd gathered at Cecil for the pit beef barbecue as well as the festivities that

followed later in the evening. "Preparations had been made to feed 500 people at the barbecue and we fed 926 people dinner," he said, "Extra food had to be brought in from Arlington and Heppner to feed the throng."

Following the introduction of dignitaries, the Bicentennial Wagon Train hosted a show of their own. This was followed by dancing in the streets to the music of local musicians.

In other business to come before the Chamber, Ray Boyce mentioned that tickets for the four rodeo shows may be purchased in advance from most of the merchants and from the Bank of Eastern Oregon and the First National Bank.

The Heppner High School cheerleaders will help take the tickets at the gates during the shows, however, all extra help will be welcomed.

Randall Peterson announced that Eva Griffith had been selected as the Grand Marshal for the Parade and Rodeo.

Guest speakers at the Chamber of Commerce Monday will be the Harvest Festival Court, Boardman.

Sen Packwood to visit here

Sen. Bob Packwood will make an 18-county "listening tour" of Oregon during the August Congressional recess. His schedule puts him at the Oregon Potato Inc. plant at Boardman during the employee break at 3:30 p.m., Aug. 19.

Later that day at 8 p.m. he plans to visit the Morrow County Fair here in Heppner.

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

We had a right good session at the country store Saturday night. After the fellers had worked up a sweat covering the situation world-wide, they got down to a discussion of how you just can't find a yes-or-no issue to talk about. It was Bug Hookum that said we live in a yes-but and no-but world where everything is right and wrong for the same reasons.

For instant, Bug said, he got tired of hearing all the yes-but about why President Ford would or would not be seen with that Russian writer with a name longer and a lot harder than Mississippi. While the President was kicking soccer balls on the White House lawn with that feller from South America and swatting tennis balls with top-ranking players, he was saying he "didn't have anything of substance to say to the Russian visiting this country."

Yes, he did write against communism and, yes, we're against it to, but we don't want to make the Russians angry. No, we're not afraid of em, but after all we had our spacemen up there shaking hands with theirs just like across the Elbe River in World War II, and we don't want to hurt the spirit of such a occasion.

And what happened was, Bug said, by making a yes-but, no-but issue of a yes-or-no visit, the President confused the hole matter where there was no need to. He don't have to love everybody he sees, and just because he talks to em don't mean he's fer em or against em, Bug said.

Actual, declared Ed Doolittle, we're lucky to git anything done at all in Washington. Ed had one of his clippings where this feller that made \$20,000 a year as head of the Federal Metal and Nonmetal Safety Board of Review has been begging Congress to do away with his board ever since it was started four year ago. He's been telling em ever year in his one report that he don't do a thing, and the Congressmen agreed ever year that his board isn't needed.

Final, this year, Ed said, they got around to cutting out the do-nothing board. If it takes four years to do somepun everybody agrees ought to be done, we're lucky to ever move on anything that one or two Congressmen don't like, was Ed's words.

Probable, allowed Clem Webster, Congress was so amazed at an agency that didn't turn in but one report a year that they wanted to keep it.

Clem had saw where Government bureaucrats turn out nearly three million pieces of paperwork that goes in the mail ever day, and that don't count them that is carried by hand from office to office. The reports cost taxpayers \$3 each, and it takes 250,000 people just to keep filing em somewhere. Clem said we've got the space of 12 Empire State Buildings filled with nothing but cabinets full of paper.

And if them reports ain't enuff, Clem said, we got \$46 million worth of "free" mail sent out by Congressmen ever year, mostly to permate themselves. Yes, they need to keep in touch at home, but no, not \$46 million worth.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.

Court house notes

Everyone was busy at county court last week with no "summer doldrums" evident. County Planner, David Moon is occupied working on proposed changes in the zoning ordinance. Some will be revised and updated, then presented to the Planning Commission for adoption. "The zoning ordinance changes will better adapt to the needs of the growth of the county," he said.

Permits issued during the past week: new home, Keith Maddox, Irrigon; new home, Dean Graves, Willow Creek; new home, John Prag, Boardman; repair of burned out home, John Hanna, Hinton Creek, Heppner; addition to existing home, Gerald Rood, Heppner.

Moon advised that his office is receiving reports of violations where people are going ahead and starting construction without obtaining the necessary permits. He said there will be an extra charge on permits for this type of condition and reminded the public that all construction requires permits. They may be obtained at his office.

Carolyn Davis, Juvenile Director, said she had been busy catching up on paper work, but added three new cases had just come to her attention. "Two of which may be serious," Miss Davis and Bill Sheirbon, Children's Service Worker, went to La-Grande on Wednesday for a juvenile conference at the Mt. View Boy's Ranch. They brought back a Morrow County boy who had been placed there in April and he is now home with his family.

At the end of the week County Assessor, Everett Harshman found himself alone in his office. One of his clerk's Doris Flynn was on vacation; the other, Johanna Woods, was home ill. Harshman said he hoped the situation did not remain the same long.

Appraiser Charlie Patching reported his office is getting ready to re-appraise the north end of the county. This is required by law each six years and a different section of the county is done each year. Paper work required is about completed and Patching said the "in the field appraisal" of rural property was expected to get underway within the next month.

There is a new look to the combination Tax Collector-Treasurer office. After trying different locations, the furni-

ture was pushed around to where it has finally met with approval of all three using the office. "We can all see the entrance now and can tell who is coming in," commented Deputy Tax Collector Donna Fetsch. "It gives us a better chance to greet the public." She added "A lot of property has changed hands this year, it is unbelievable. "Each piece of property which is sold involves re-filing, name changes, property account number changes. So the two in the new Tax collector's office have been very busy. Tax Collector, Elvira Irby, was hospitalized last Monday and released on Friday but is expected to be home recuperating for awhile.

County Treasurer, Sylvia McDaniel, is glad her office is about back to normal. She said "we were in a real mess" here for awhile. Electricians had to be at work installing new outlets, lights were going off and on even in other offices in the courthouse during part of the change. Mrs. McDaniel is doing her end of the month report.

The county court approved a new permit schedule for the Planning Commission at its meeting Wednesday. It discussed, but could not legally act, on a request to repair a public domain road serving Blake subdivision. Decision was reached to have Engineer Steve Anderson complete forms required by DEQ for installation of a lighted arm closure at the railroad tracks on Patterson Ferry Road. Decision was reached to encourage people to bring road problems to the meeting held the third Wednesday of each month.

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