

FROM THE CORNER

By ERNIE CERESA

It is the duty of this newspaper to keep the public informed and we will endeavor to do so with facts, not rumors. Rumor is defined as unverified information of uncertain facts. Recently some rumors were released within the area regarding the Morrow County Clinic, the wages of the two doctors paid by the Federal Government's Department of Health, Education and Welfare, when they visit the clinics at Condon and Fossil and of the expansion program planned by the doctors.

These are the facts. Prior to the doctors coming to this area the county proposed to spend \$50,000 for a completed clinic for the doctors to set up their practice. Rumor has it the county has spent over \$78,000 for the clinic and is presently purchasing the doctors' equipment for their practice. To date, according to Morrow County Judge Paul Jones, slightly over \$51,000 has been spent toward the clinic, including pavement and landscaping. The doctors are purchasing their own equipment and are paying taxes on their equipment.

While it is true that an agreement between the county and the doctors has not been signed an evening meeting between the doctors and the county is scheduled for Dec. 3, if possible at the Morrow County Courthouse.

At present the doctors and the county court are operating on a gentlemen's agreement as the cash lease does not take effect until July, 1976, then runs for a four year period.

Rumor also has it that HEW is paying the doctors in excess of \$1,800 per month to visit the clinics at Condon and Fossil. Facts . . . The budget set up by HEW to pay the doctors for their visits to Condon and Fossil amounts to \$17,400 per year. This amounts to \$200 per doctor per week, maximum. If a doctor makes three trips to Condon in one week he still only receives \$200 for the week. If he spends only one-half day at the clinic he receives only \$100. From this wage he must pay for his own transportation and purchase his own meals. As both of the doctors are licensed pilots they fly to their respective communities. Contrary to rumors they receive no reimbursement from the clinic for seeing patients while in Condon or Fossil, as their main objective is to supervise and consult with the nurse practitioner.

According to Bob Ewell, Tri-Counties Health Service, the main objective of the present program is to place both the Condon and the Fossil clinic on a paying basis within the next three years, with the primary goal to improve the health services to the three counties.

I have no intention of down grading the present doctors of this community, however, I feel they should be aware of the rumors some of the towns people are spreading about them. I also feel the public has a right to know truth and should be kept informed about the rumors.

Let's not forget who asked the doctors to come to Heppner. Now that they are here and getting established let's help them. We owe it to them, for they are here at our request.



"Pass The Wheat"

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

The fellows were counting their blessings at the country store Saturday night, and they ranged from family, friends and good health to peace and the Congress recess. They were agreed, Mister Editor, like they are ever year, that it's right that Thanksgiving is a holiday just for Americans, cause we got so much more to be thankful for than the rest of the world.

Bug Hookum, that ain't hit a lick at a snake in 20 year, reminded the fellows that they allus are telling him that hard work never hurt anybody, but he has showed them another year that you don't hear tell of anybody resting to death either. Bug said he was in better shape than anybody in the bunch, and that he credits his health to his idea that it's a heap better to be feeling good way behind than run down out in front. He claimed he was a leader in conserving energy afore anybody ever thought of saving gas and cutting out the lights in the White House.

Ed Doolittle said he is thankful we ain't discovered no more worlds out in space yet, cause America jest can't afford to keep up any more. And Ed said he was glad to see the Congressmen come home fer the holiday, cause, like the feller said, nobody is safe with them in session. Politicians can git us in more trouble between changes of the moon than we can git out of between Haley's comets, was Ed's words.

Contrary, Clem Webster said he was thankful fer all the flavors of politicians, the Democrats, the Republicans, the radicals, liberals, the conservatives and even them that don't know what they are. As long as we got all of em trying to git in the act, Clem allowed, there's less chanc of any one of em stealing more than the country can stand. Clem went on to say he was thankful we ain't in a shooting war, and that with all our economic problems you don't hear anybody running around in other countries passing the hat fer us. And Clem was thankful he didn't raise no big corn crop and no cattle agin this year, cause he'd be losing sleep over how to hold em til the price is right.

Speaking of wars, Zeke Grubb wondered what ever happened to all the stuff the Civil Defense had stored up to use in case of war. Zeke said he saw a piece where Civil Defense people were supposed to check the emergency supplies ever so often, but in some places everybody had forgot where to look. The water barrels in the bomb shelters didn't need changing, Zeke said, cause they never had been filled. Zeke said he reckoned America is a peace loving country, cause we sure don't like to prepare for trouble.

Personal, Mister Editor, I'm mighty thankful I'm living in America, even if it is costing me 10 cents to git my two cents worth in the mail and they're thinking of going up. When you come right down to it, it's a heap more important to know I got that dime to spend, and that on this Thanksgiving day I still got more than plenty to eat.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.

County Rodeo buget approved

The Morrow County Rodeo Committee has approved the final 1974-75 Committee Report, showing total receipts of \$13,589.69 and total expenses of \$12,924.36. Individuals wishing to see the report may do so by contacting Dennis D. Doherty, secretary.

The Committee attributes the \$664.96 profit margin to several factors, including strict budget control measures, the addition of the Saturday night RCA show, the diligent work of the concessionaires, (The lone American Legion Post No. 95, and the Heppner Elks Lodge) and the continued strong support of the community.

Gate receipts were up 12 per cent without any increase in admission charges and despite the rain and colder weather which prevailed this year. Receipts from the concessionaires were up nearly 19 per cent. Dance receipts also showed a substantial increase. The result was more than sufficient to offset the 55 per cent increase for the Rodeo Stock Contractor.

As has been the case in each of the past several years, there was an increase in the number of contestants at this year's rodeo. At the Morrow County Rodeo on Friday night, the number of contestants increased from 56 in 1974 to 59. Total entry fees paid jumped from \$1,025 to \$1,642. A total of \$1,561 prize money was paid out, with the difference being paid for stock charges.

For the RCA shows, 34 girl's barrel racers, 235 cowboys and 14 race contestants signed up for competition. Contestants winning money in the RCA events took home total prize winnings in excess of \$11,000, including \$1900 in purse money, plus 11 different prize awards donated by Morrow and Umatilla County businessmen.

Chairman, Ken Belcher stated that the Rodeo Committee wishes to acknowledge the support of the Fair Board, the Court and their chaparrons, Cista Venard and Hazel Mahoney, and the dozens of other persons who donated prizes, time and assistance to make this Rodeo a success.

20 Years Ago

Morrow County Court paid out \$276 for coyote bounties at a \$6 bounty.

Mrs. Fred Sanders was named president of the Heppner Civic League. She replaces Mrs. Bradley Fancher.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Nickerson and family are here to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with his mother, Mrs. Grace Nickerson.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Cox, Portland, are the parents of a girl. She has been named Nancy Ann. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Claude Cox, Heppner.

50 Years Ago

Jos. J. Neys made a trip to Canyon City the past week, where he was called on legal business.

Manager Sigbee of the Star Theater has booked "The Ten Commandments" for Heppner on Sunday and Monday.

There was a special meeting of the Red Cross Chapter of Heppner at which time Lincoln A. Corbett was honored guest. Others present were Mrs. Helen Walker, Mrs. W.P. Mahoney, Mrs. Jessie Pruy, and Prof. James Burgess.

John Pieper spent a short time in Heppner Tuesday.

Time to Remember

Rev. Mark Johnson

(Hope & Valby Lutheran Churches)

This week, we are celebrating Thanksgiving. This special day of our year has traditionally been set aside in order that we may examine our lives and realize all of our blessings. As we look at our lives, we realize we have an over abundance of things to be thankful for. However, Thanksgiving is not only a time for thankfulness but also of remembrance. We are in the process of celebrating the bicentennial of our nation. During this day of Thanksgiving, it would be well for us to look at our past in order to receive the proper perspective of our future. I would like to take a look at where we have been in order to get some idea of where we are going.

All of us realize, our nation was founded on the premise of freedom. The people of Europe fled the oppression to attain the freedom of the new land. One of the important freedoms sought by these people was that of religious freedom. When our nation was being organized, there was a Presbyterian minister, John Witherspoon, who gave a sermon in which he talked about "The Holy Experiment." In it, he quoted from Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid." In this sermon, he stated that America had been set aside as a "Holy Experiment" where we were to be like a city on a hill for all of the world to see. America was to be seen as "God's New Kingdom on Earth." This theme quickly caught on and it was not long before most people firmly believed that America was the land which God had chosen to bless. This idea was brought out in songs such as "God Bless America", and slogans such as "God is on our side." For many years, this idea seemed to be true because America appeared to be the country of the world which was truly blessed. For the first 175 years of our history, everything seemed to go our way. We grew from thirteen independent colonies to fifty strong independent states; our gross national product was climbing steadily; industrialization swept the country and gave us every modern convenience known to man; our nation became one of the most powerful countries in the world; and we enjoyed the highest standard of living in the world. By all standards, it appeared that what John Witherspoon had said about America was true. It seemed as though our nation was destined on a course which only lead to greater heights. There was no mountain too high that we could not climb, no enemy so strong that we could not conquer, or no problem so complex that we could not solve. This has been the mood of our country from the moment of its birth and it has remained this way up through the early 1960s.

However, in the 1960s and 70s, America suddenly ran into some situations which it had not expected. It started with the Vietnam War, continued through Watergate, and is still alive with the situations of the F.B.I. and C.I.A. With the Vietnam War, America had two problems: one was young Americans were no longer willing to fight for their country; and the other was that America had run into a problem which it could not solve. With the problem of the Watergate scandal and its aftermath, the trust and faith Americans once had in their country had now vanished. These problems, along with pollution, energy, racism and others, have transformed Americans from "budding optimists" into "hopeless pessimists." As Americans, we begin to wonder what is happening. Why do we have problems which we cannot solve? Why are the experts of our country so bewildered about what to do? Why does the future, which once was so bright, now seem so foggy and dismal. This seems to be the mood in which we live. As Christians, our questions become more specific as we ask such things as: where is God? Why doesn't he do something? And more specific as we ask such things as: where is God? Why doesn't he do something? and what happened to this "Holy Experiment" into which we were placed?

I believe these questions are good ones to raise and indeed should be raised. As Christians, we need to be searching for ways in which God's hand is at work in our world. If we take the Bible seriously, then we must believe that God is at work in our world. He not only was at work a long time ago, but is still actively involved today. Perhaps we have been looking for God in the wrong places, and because of this, have failed to see him. In the Old Testament, whenever the Jewish nation became too proud of their achievements and too self-centered, God went to work in order to humble them and remind them they were to be God's instruments in the world. Perhaps a comparison can be made between the Jewish nation of the Old Testament and present day America. Could it be that God is actively involved in the events of Vietnam, Watergate, etc. in order to bring us to our knees and to reveal to us what we have become? Have we not become so proud of our own achievements and so self-centered that we have removed God from the picture and placed ourselves at the center of the world? Perhaps God is actively involved in the world today, but in ways that we either do not see or in places that have become too painful for us to realize?

As we celebrate this Thanksgiving, and as we look to the celebration of the bicentennial, perhaps we need to look at our history and our present situation from this point of view. Perhaps God is at work in order to break through our thick shells so he can reveal to us something of vital importance. God is still the creator and sustainer of life. He is the Lord of History and the ruler of all. He is the master and we are his servants. If it is true that we are servants, then our role in life is perhaps much different than what we have experienced. We have been called to be instruments in God's hands in order to bring peace, love, honesty and justice upon this earth. If it is true that we have somehow been blessed, then it is only in order that we can share this with others. On this Thanksgiving Day, we have much to be thankful for. However, in our blessing, let us not forget that we have not been called to be served, but rather to serve.



David Moon, of the Morrow County Planning Dept. stated that the building permits in Morrow County have more than doubled in the past year. More permits are being issued to the north end of the county. Building permits issued in the months of October and November were Donald K. Evans, addition to mobile home; Burl Wallenburger, addition to mobile home; Dallas and Marjorie Craber, shed; Curtis Elder, mobile home; Harold and Mildred Baker, dwelling; Richard Nuttback, dwelling; Kinzua Corp., well dwelling; Kinzua Corp., addition shop; Merle F. Carlson, mobile home; Arlie Patton, mobile home; Mike Partlow, shed; Kinzua Corp., shed; Herman M. Marria, mobile home; Paul Brown, mobile home; Ken Evans, mobile home; Keeco Corp., mobile home.

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Guest Editorial

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

In the "Good Old Days" very few, who were caught rustling, were ever repeat offenders. Justice or punishment was usually swift. Some errors were made as will happen in a quick style justice.

Technicalities were unheard of and if you were caught the price was paid. A far cry from the workings of justice today. One can be caught in the act and still go free because of a loophole . . . technicality. Perhaps I am not an able judge but when I was a youngster the saying was "crime does not pay."

Does this saying still apply? Is crime becoming a "paying proposition"? In looking over a report on crime from the United States Department of Justice it appears that increasing numbers believe that it does.

Population increase was 5 per cent between 1969 and 1974 while the crime rate was up 32 per cent. This indicates one of two things (1) more crimes by the same number of people or (2) more people committing crimes. Probably a little of each.

Arrests were 9,655,800 while the number of crimes is recorded as 10,192,000 in 1974. This indicates about 4.5 per cent of the population is involved in committing crime.

In examining these figures it appears that a small percentage of people are causing a lot of the increased crime.

Would you believe . . . 19 serious crimes each minute. One every 3.15 seconds. Included in the serious crimes are violent crimes, murder, forcible rape, robbery and assault to kill. One every 33 seconds. A burglary every 10 seconds. The list goes on and on.

A computerized Criminal History containing 207,748 offenders showed that 135,470 were arrested 2 or more times. The average criminal career was just over 5 years and the average number of arrests was 4.

Figures are figures and seem remote. They do not always present a clear picture or really show what is happening.

Clearly crime is on the increase no matter how we slice the figures. The cause of the increase is not so easy to determine. Perhaps there are many reasons, not the least of which is the delay of punishment.

Years of delay in courts. Many times charges are dismissed, not because of innocence but because of a technicality. All these and others contribute to the problem.

The bulk of the problem originates in the home long before anyone becomes a criminal. A strong home life with good and correct teachings is the basis of our society.

Honesty in the home and in our dealings with others is the basic solution to the crime problems.

It is not a quick cure but it is a sure cure. The sooner we take the steps to institute the cure the better.

Solutions begin with you in your family.

Cooperation with authority, vigilance for the rights of others and honesty within ourselves will affect a cure to the problem of crime.

How about it?

RAM.

Property tax refunds

Many homeowners have contacted offices of the Oregon Department of Revenue during these last days prior to the deadline for paying their property taxes. They want to obtain claim forms for their property tax refunds.

This is not in accordance with the law which governs the property tax refund program, says John J. Lobdell, revenue department director. Lobdell points out that the property tax refund program uses 1975 income in determining the amount of refund and people must wait until the end of the year to file their claim forms.

The forms will be part of the individual income tax packets which will be printed next month and distributed around the first of January.

Property taxes are due in full by Nov. 17 in order for property owners to receive a three per cent discount. Some homeowners may be unable to pay the full amount on time and Lobdell has two suggestions for these persons.

The first is to pay at least one-fourth of the bill by Nov. 17 so that the taxes will not become delinquent. A person could then file a refund claim after Jan. 1, 1976 and possibly receive a refund check before the next quarterly payment is due on Feb. 15, 1976.

The second suggestion is for persons who are unable to pay one-fourth of their bill now. They may elect not to pay the tax, file for a refund after Jan. 1 and use the refund check to help pay the tax bill later.