

Horse sense

By ERNEST V. JOINER



For Years I have been making predictions of what each new year will bring, at home and around the world. It's interesting fun, except when they come true! Here are my predictions for 1976, done without tongue in cheek.

The Environmental Protection agency will continue to be the nation's biggest policeman in 1976. One unusual target will be the locomotive. EPA, with concurrence of many people, will sue to force locomotives to operate more quietly—no more whistle tooting, bell banging, or clickety-clack-clickety-clacking on the rails—and my, aren't we getting touchy! . . . One of the biggest booms in 1976 will be the return of the trolley to American streets . . . The Church of Scientology, which has filed a \$40 million damage suit against Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the U.S. State Department for infringing its right to enjoy the free exercise of religion without government interference, will be dismissed.

Henry Kissinger will fall from grace as Secretary of State, and leave office . . . New York's fiscal problems will be repeated in a dozen U.S. cities, and all for the same reason—graft, corruption, wild spending sprees . . . Americans will lose even more faith in their government leaders, with more and more of them refusing to trust their savings to government bonds . . . There will be civil war in Spain and Portugal . . . The price of gold will rise sharply over the next six months and hit \$350 an ounce in 1976 . . . Offshore oil drilling will continue on East and West Coasts despite environmentalist objection . . . The consumer-environmentalist kick we've been on for far too long will go into a sharp decline . . . President Sadat will be dead by the end of 1977, either by heart attack or assassination . . . Look for a new Arab-Israeli War, which will be won by Israel at a high cost . . . Russia, already the No. 1 military power will make a military grab for power—outside Russia, of course . . . Terrorists activities will hit the U.S. Political terrorists will high-jack an atomic weapon and threaten to annihilate an American city; and their demands will be met . . . Labor unions will strengthen their hold on political and economic fronts, fueling inflation and placing the U.S. in the position England enjoys, with labor-dominated government . . . Italy will go communist.

20 years ago I wrote a column for another publication, predicting what is happening in Africa today. While it earned me no honors as a prognosticator, it did show I could be right now and then! After reading it, just think how things are going to be in 1976 if the same degree of accuracy is obtained in my predictions for the New Year! If I'm wrong on as many as 30 per cent of the 1976 predictions, the drinks are on me. Here's how that item went:

Ever since I was old enough to draw scowls of disapproval for refusing to contribute money to support the "conversion" of those African heathens to Christianity and capitalism, I sensed, without knowing exactly where Africa is, that a crime was being committed by trying to force a carefree, happy people into the mold of the western man. Thousands of religious, commercial, and governmental missionaries have swarmed over Africa like locusts to bring the blessings of brassieres, refrigerators, time payment plans, hymnbooks, taxation systems, pasteurized milk, and Christian morals to a people who needed and wanted these refinements like they needed and wanted a second head. This country refused to tolerate anywhere in the world the peaceful existence of a people who got along well with their centuries-old gods; who refused to buy more than they could pay for; who had no neuroses, psychoses, or frustrations that couldn't be cured with a night raid on some tribal village; and who found it a hilarious suggestion that they could find peace and happiness by laboring 12 hours a day in the foul bowels of the White Bwana's copper mines for considerably less than the wage paid by missionaries for copper workers in the West. The results of a hundred years of unwanted and uninvited mission work among the Africans are spread over the front pages of the world's newspapers. Robbed of their way of life; cheated by their religion, customs, mores, pleasures, habits, dress, speech, purpose and identity—they stand today a product of the western world, an angry, ignorant, rioting, warring, brawling and brutal mob without purpose or direction. Along with the brassieres and refrigerators, they also received from us our same ambitions, greeds, cunning, boredom and discontent.

The Missionary's chickens are home to roost. In London, Mrs. Elspeth Huxley, a British government commissioner studying Africa, reports only 2 alternatives for the black people. One is a return to tribal factions; the other is to turn to a strong dictator. In either case there will be bloodshed, because the Africans are bored stiff with the artificial peace that the western democracies has hung over everything. Here are the words of Mrs. Huxley. We've taken away all their amusements. All the enjoyable orgies and tribal customs that were very gay have mostly faded out. Also the inter-tribal wars, which were so exciting for the young men. These didn't kill thousands of people—only perhaps a few were killed—but the tribal warfare and cattle raiding gave the young men a purpose in life. With a system like that, we want to improve on it!

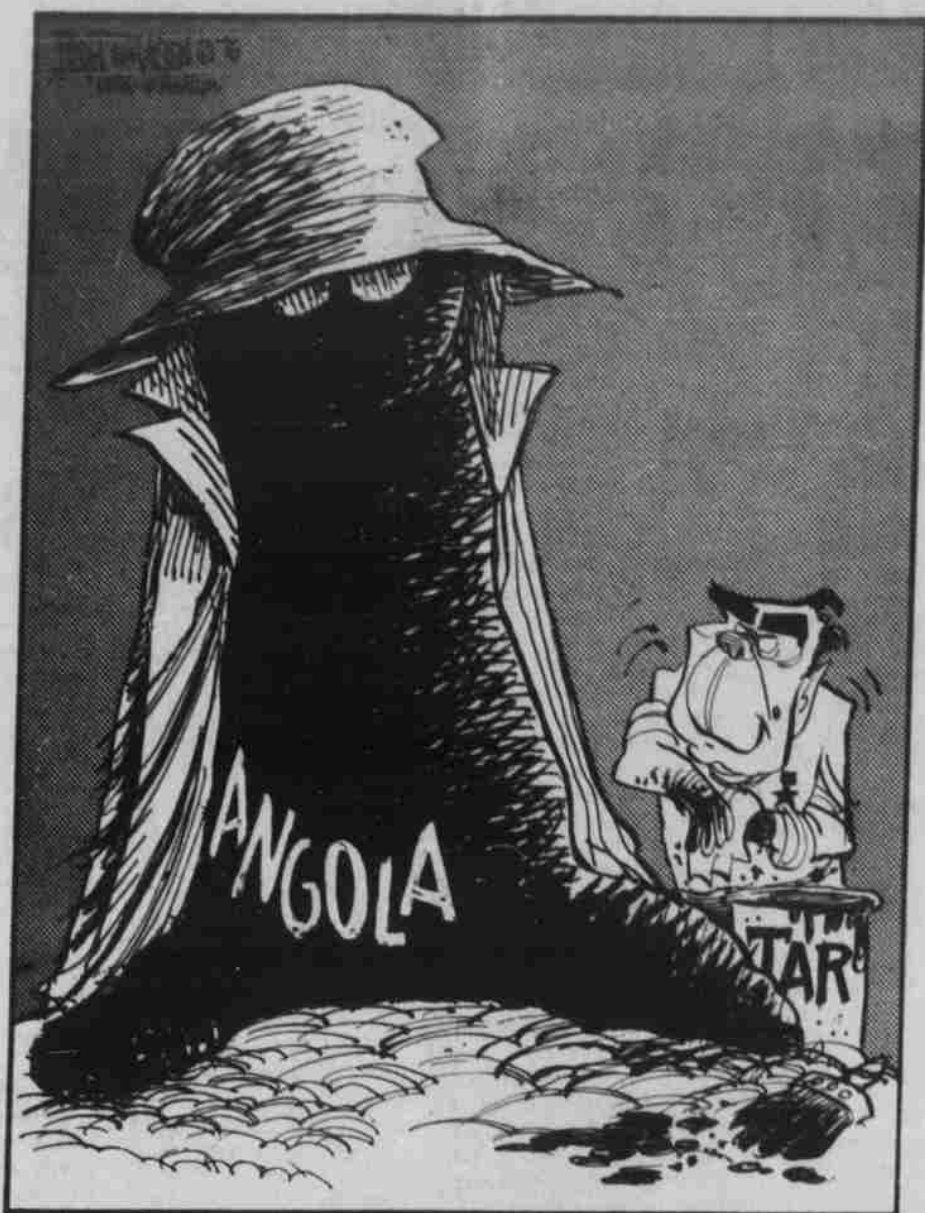
Story of Famed Indian Leader . . .

Retold as TV Special



The amazing story of Chief Joseph, great leader of the Nez Perce Indian tribe, will be shown again to television audiences Friday evening, Jan. 9, from 9 to 11 o'clock (ET) over the ABC-TV network.

RACHEL DICK



The mail pouch

EDITOR:

On behalf of the Heppner Lions Club I would like to express appreciation of those who helped on the Heppner Lions Club "Santa Calling Project" and on Santa's visits to Heppner. It helped bring Heppner a Merry Christmas.

First of all, we appreciated the work of Albert Connor as the Heppner Lions Santa. He really seemed to enjoy it greatly.

We also appreciated the cooperation of Hubert Wilson and the Post Office crew for providing a special "Santa Calling" box at the Post Office and space for it.

Our thanks goes to Forey Burkenbine and Ernie McCabe for providing candy canes for Santa to take to the youngsters. Also, we want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for their candy donations and the oranges for the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Nursing Home.

We also appreciated the work and publicity of Ernie Ceresa and the Gazette-Times.

Thanks to Lions Club project chairman Dave Dollard and his helpers, Dick Sargent, Al Osmin and Neil Parks.

DAVE HARRISON,
Secretary Heppner Lions Club

EDITOR:

Hoping that many Heppner people have read about the LAPP Project, I'd like to tell why Pauline Miller and I began it.

We are concerned because many of our children do not read as well as they should.

Mrs. Miller, Special Reading Teacher, works with children who are seriously below grade level. I am one of the three first grade teachers. We feel that our school's reading program is excellent, but like any other skill reading must be practiced. This is the purpose of the LAPP Project—Listen, Appreciate, Praise, Progress.

Why can't this practice be done at home, or without extra help at school?

More than half of our children's parents are both working, or the child lives in a one-parent home.

60 per cent of our students come to school by bus. Some are picked up as early as 6:45 a.m. and dropped off as late as 5:15 p.m. Some travel 88 miles a day on a bus.

Although school starts at 8:30 and closes at 2:30 for first and second graders, actual classroom time is only 4 hours, 10 minutes. Third and fourth graders are in class 4 hours, 40 minutes.

The rest of the day is spent eating lunch and in recess. Teachers have a mandated 30 minute duty free period at noon; the rest of their time is used for supervision of the children while eating or playing, and in preparation.

In order to utilize the limited classroom hours effectively a teacher must be well prepared. But there is no magic way to stretch the time so that each child can have more than minutes snatched here and there for one-to-one attention from the teacher.

About two hours a day is spent in language arts—reading, phonics, spelling, language, story time, dramatics. If the entire two hours were divided so each child had his share of his teacher's time, he'd have about five minutes a day.

Our high school aides have been very helpful, but we don't have enough of them, and they are at the school less than an hour and a half of the morning.

Two adult teacher aides provide the half-hour free time for the teachers and part of the playground supervision. They help with clerical work too. But our school population has increased 25 per cent in the last three years.

Kindergarten prepares children much better for first grade, and for reading. But not all children have a kindergarten background. Few of these have had the amount of help at home that prepares them to go to school on a par with the other youngsters.

Reading doesn't seem to be the goal that it used to be for children. Television is the major culprit. Parents don't read as much themselves, or to their children.

SO—we need help. We need a number of adults who can spend a few hours each week with children. They will listen to children read, or play reading games with them, or read TO them. (Some youngsters haven't heard the traditional fairy stories.) By a supportive, noncritical listening, with appreciation and praise, these people will make reading very important to these youngsters.

If you can be one of our foster "grandparents," please call 676-9128 or complete one of the LAPP forms available at the grocery stores. Thank you.



R.A. Maxwell

Unimportant, I don't think so when you look at the energy picture. The more you know the better to make right choices in all things.

Attention all fishermen and those who would be fishermen: the 1976 Synopsis of Oregon Angling Regulations is now available at license dealers. Better check the rules and season dates. The old saying "better safe than sorry."

For those hunters who manage not to see an elk during hunting season and others who would like to see an elk, now is the time.

Jewell Wildlife Meadows, State Highway 202 about a mile west of Jewell has a herd of about 150, several are large bulls. Better late than never.

Did you know that in 1784 the ship Empress of China carried 20 tons of Ginseng to China and that by the year 1800, clipper ships were carrying half a million pounds a year. They say it cures everything from weak eyes to premature aging.

Ginseng anyone?

1956

Mr and Mrs. Earl Arnold were the parents of the first baby born Jan. 1. Little Jimmie arrived at 2:30 a.m.

Heppner Post Office shows an increase over the year in 1955. The local office did \$69,450; \$136.01 over the year of 1954.

Morrow County will be one of the first eastern Oregon counties to be free of brucellosis. The certificate will be presented at the annual meeting of the Morrow County Livestock Growers Association in January.

Phil Blakney has been named president of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

Bob Hoskins, manager of the Lone Townies basketball team, will endeavor to keep the team's perfect record. They will meet with the Ordinance squad on Friday. The probable starting lineup will be Larry Pryse, Gene Doherly, Wayne Pierce, Butch Eubanks and Robert Peterson.

A rabies vaccination clinic will be held Jan. 14, 9-42 and 1-5 p.m. at the Norene Veterinary Clinic, Heppner.

The rabies clinic is being held in conjunction with a state wide effort to have all dogs vaccinated against the dreaded disease. No pups under 4 months of age will be vaccinated and the fee for the rabies vaccination is being done at cost, or \$4 per animal.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES
MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
Box 337, Heppner, OR. 97836
Subscription rate: \$6 per year in Oregon, \$7 elsewhere.
Ernest V. Joiner, Publisher
Robert A. Maxwell, Editor

Published every Thursday and entered as a second-class matter at the post office at Heppner, Oregon, under the act of March 3, 1879. Second-class postage paid at Heppner, Oregon.

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

I'm happy to report that all the fellers showed up at the country store Saturday night in good shape.

Ed Doolittle spoke for most of em when he allowed that the most exciting thing he done New Year's was not turn on the television. Ed said that was the smartest move he's made this year, and he recommended it fer everybody that don't want his life broke up in quarters and halves and half-baked opinions on how many ways one bunch of grown men can git a ball thru another bunch. Ed said his one New Year's reserlution was not to cut the television on whenever possible.

The fellers general ain't to strong on reserlutions. Most of em is at a time in life when temptation is easy to resist anyhow, and as much as they look forward to the year ahead they ain't about to make any big changes or take on any major projects. So, like Josh Clodhopper said, if you ain't going to resolve not to do somepun or to do somepun the field of New Year's reserlutions gits narrowed down quick.

Ed reported that while he was not watching television New Year's Day he reminded himself that this is Leap Year, and he was of a mind that this event ain't give the attention it use to be. When he was a young feller, Ed said, the gals made a big to do about Leap Year, and he even had one to come right out and invite him to a church social onct. But the idee of wimmen taking advantage of Leap Year to go out chasing the fellers is as out of date as the gal who's sweet 16 and never been kissed. Even back in his sporting days, Ed allowed, Leap Year was fer fun, and any year a gal set her cap serious fer a man he was lassoed and hogtied afore he knowed what day it was. Now, best he can figger, Ed said, courting is ever man and woman fer theiresself all the time.

Clem Webster said that Leap Year will git less notice this year than usual, because short of the Second Coming and World War Three 1976 is going to be the year of the bicentennial.

America's 200th birthday is going to be on the front pages everwhere. Clem allowed, and folks have been setting up nights fer the past five year figgering how to git a free ride out of the event.

By the time July 4 rolls around this year, Clem declared, he expects to read more history than in all the rest of his life put together, and he'll be seeing everthing from red, white and blue ice cream to a big business fer men in knee britches and powdered wigs playing Ben Franklin and George Washington at year-around shopping center sales.

Actual, Clem said, he ain't agin permotion, cause that's what keeps this country going and growing. But he said he hopes we don't git so caught up in riding the bicentennial bandwagon we fergit to pay some mind to the wagon. Like the feller said that hired a 18-year-old girl to be Santa Claus in his store, we are permoting the spirit of the occasion, not the people involved. If we can keep that thought, Clem said, we'll do fine.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.

Learning Disabilities

(Second in series)

By JAMES ANGERMEYER, MA

As mentioned in last week's article, one is confronted with many different definitions and descriptions when talking about learning disabilities. These different disabilities can be very misleading and confusing until one can begin to organize them in some way.

In general, most of these different viewpoints can be categorized under two headings: Educational and Neurological. The former usually defines learning disabilities by describing the behavior that goes along with them. The latter is usually more concerned about the physical process that causes the behavior. It must be kept in mind, however, that these categories are general, and that the two areas are not mutually exclusive. Many educators borrow the neurological terms of learning disabilities and neurologists are, too, concerned with the behavior of the learning disabled child.

The use of the two areas is only to help make sense of a complex subject and to understand that talking with different professionals can present you with different and sometimes conflicting information.

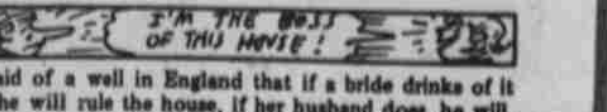
In talking with parents or teachers, I generally use a descriptive approach in helping them understand learning disabilities. For example, a child who seems to have average or above-average intelligence, but is underachieving in school, would make me want to check the possibility of his having a learning disability. The same is true of a child whose vision checks out alright but who has difficulties in reading or writing; or the child whose hearing is intact, but who can't seem to follow directions. In short, any child who does not seem to be living up to his apparent potential, should be suspected as having a learning disability.

At different ages, a child will, of course, exhibit different behaviors, and a carefully taken history will lend evidence to the existence of a learning disability. A child makes attachments to people based on how he perceives them through his senses. Every mother has witnessed that point at about six months of age when a child suddenly is able to distinguish between his mother and a strange or new babysitter. Prior to that, anyone could hold him without eliciting any fear. This is called "stranger anxiety" and is considered a normal development. It stands to reason that a learning disabled child would have difficulties in being perceptually aware of people in his environment and be therefore may not develop this "stranger anxiety" or not show it until much later. This then would be a good clue of some perceptual handicap or learning disability.

The onset of such milestones as walking, talking, and toilet training can also be used to determine whether or not a child has a learning disability. Again, it is important to note that other things besides learning disabilities can affect the rate of a child's developmental milestones. Its a fact that all children are unique and develop at an individual rate. Even children within the same family usually will not achieve the same milestones at exactly the same age. The things that educators and psychologists look for are "gross" changes in the developmental process, or the existence of several of the learning disability symptoms in the same child.

It is when a child reaches school age and is first compared systematically with other children the same age, that most learning disabled youngsters are discovered. For 5 or 6 years they have lived for the most part in a tolerant world in which little pressure was placed on them to learn. Now their faulty perceptual apparatus is confronted with tremendously new situations: a large group of children; structured settings; the written word; new and confusing rules. It is a tremendous adjustment for all children and a task bordering on the impossible for the learning disabled youngster.

In next week's article, we will examine the expectations of the school age child and how the handicapped child attempts to cope with them.



It is said of a well in England that if a bride drinks of it first, she will rule the house, if her husband does, he will.