

Horse sense



By

ERNEST V. JOINER

A not-so-fearless press is receiving kudos from the public for disclosure of intimate details in the lives of such public figures as President John Kennedy and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. It may appear to be good journalism. The public may savor reading the salacious and sensational stories. But I say it is muckraking of the worst sort and deserves condemnation instead of praise. Obviously, the press corps in Washington knew all the sordid details of the lives of these 2 men during the time they were alive and able to defend themselves. Why didn't the press print the evidence then instead of now? The press kept its silence, either as an accommodation to high-placed figures or because of a fear of them. In either case the press exhibited timidity if not cowardice by failing to inform the public at a time when such exposure might have altered the course of history. The belated flagellation of Kennedy and Hoover does little to enhance the prestige and credibility of the press. Jumping on people when they're dead and gone is nasty business. But it is nothing new. Thomas Jefferson was shielded during his lifetime from scandal, as were Presidents Harding, Wilson,

Roosevelt, Kennedy and Johnson. One should not forget that it was the press that conceived and created the storybook Camelot and kept it glittering so long as a means of gilding the deeds of the Kennedy Clan. And it was the press that, once Kennedy was gone, set about causing faded Camelot to fade into the mist, soiled and sullied, an illusion that never should have existed in the first place. Columnist Jack Anderson had the goods on FBI Director Hoover all these years, yet withheld it until the old tiger wasn't around to fight back. The lives of our public officials should be open books. A president has no private life, and he knows that when he assumes the office. It is a price he pays for the power and the glory. The trappings and emoluments that accrue to the presidency. And it is the duty of the press, I believe, to tell the whole truth about these high officials at the time that information becomes available, and not wait until it's "safe" to do so.

Something tells me that before this year is out I'm going to be as fed up with the word "bicentennial" as I am with "far out," "basically," and "you know" . . . Assemblyman William Craven points out that during 1973 there were 2156 fatalities attributed to drunk drivers as compared to 675 deaths caused by handguns during the same year. So, by all means, let us get rid of those handguns! . . . The passion for alphabetizing the names of organizations (EPA, CIO, CIA, FFA, etc., ad absurdum) isn't likely to capture the interest of the movement known as the Status of Women (SOW for short) . . . A recent story in the Toronto Star told how Third World delegates to the United Nations sell their votes to oil rich nations at the going price of from \$6,000 to \$8,000. They get up to \$30,000 per vote on a key issue. This is the business of "the world" conducted at the Tower of Babel-on-the-Hudson.

President Ford's state of the union message Monday night followed the traditional pattern beloved by politicians. The first part of his speech was a glorification of our forefathers' courage, devotion and dedication to freedom. Of course, I never tire of being reminded of our glorious past. But experience has taught me that when a president or governor does the honors it is only a build-up to picking the taxpayers' pockets. After Mr. Ford had whipped up my patriotic fervor to the point where I could have kicked the Russian Army apart singlehandedly, he lowered the boom. A drastic hike in social security taxes. He did soften the blow by saying that it would only amount to about \$1 a week for the average worker—conveniently skipping over the fact that an additional \$1 a week per worker would also be extracted from the worker's employer, thus understating his tax take by 100 per cent. He promised that farmers would no longer have to sell their farms to pay inheritance taxes, thus permitting the heirs to inherit the land. A new concept in these days when government regards itself as the sole beneficiary of a deceased. He also promised strict enforcement of anti-trust laws to thwart greedy monopolies from imposing upon the little man's pocketbook. He did not mention that he would take action against the biggest monopolies of all, the government monopolies such as the U.S. Postal Service that is robbing us blind; the Environmental Protection Agency that is killing us in the process of making life livable; and Amtrack, using our tax dollars to kill off the railroads. All in all, it was the same old script. He promised an extension of the income tax cut, and while the nation's hats were still in the air from sheer exultation, he took that income tax reduction money right out of our pockets in bigger social security taxes. Still he did say some nice things about our forefathers. But after 200 years I don't know if we can afford them any longer.

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Ed Doolittle come to the session at the country store Saturday night with his usual pocket full of clippings, and one said "the cost of getting sick skyrockets." Ed read that headline to the fellers, and he allowed that he studied the situation up one side and down the other, and he figured out that it ain't the price of getting sick that's getting out of hand, it's the cost of getting well. Sick allus has been free but the cost of the cure is enough to make us sick. What is worst, Ed went on, is that folks hit hardest is old ones that have fixed incomes, if they got any, and they are the ones that git sick the most and stay sick the longest. Ed said he had brung up this matter before and he wasn't looking fer much more support this time, but what we ought to work out is a deal where we pay the doctors to keep us well, and they pay us if they fall down on the job and we git sick. Ed said he had no idee what an arrangement like that would do fer a doctor's malpractice insurance that is helping to run up prices, but more folks are well than sick at any given time, so he ought to come out ahead. Zeke Grubb said another reason for high doctor bills is his cost of getting in and thru medical school. Zeke has saw where most schools in the country have as many as 50 well-qualified applicants fer every one seat in their classes, and that one young feller spent from \$25 to \$50 each on applicants to 47 medical schools, and they all turned him down. We think gitting to see a doctor is tough, Zeke said, but gitting to be one is even harder. Speaking of prices, Bug Hookum said the way meat prices is bouncing around he has worked up a system. If a feller splits up his operation between hogs and cows he can't lose. Bug said, When pork is high, sell the hogs and buy cows. When beef is up, sell and buy hogs. If you play the market right, Ed said, you can pick up enough between buying and selling to build fences and put in pasture. Course, admitted Bug, if somebody figgers out why beef and hog prices work like a seesaw that might be a bigger help fer farmers and ranchers. Actual, broke in Isaac Cornfodder, beef and pork may be a glut on the market if this woman he saw a piece about he saw her way. Isaac don't say much at our meetings, so the fellers figgered he was worked up over somepun. He was. He told where this girl has been eating bugs fer months, and she has found she gits all the protein she needs. Termites is her favorite, he declared, and she also is partial to ants and grasshoppers. She give some of her insect recipes in the paper, Isaac said. The fellers thanks Isaac fer his report, but they was all agreed they would steer clear of a bumblebee casserole even at church covered dish suppers where they usual eat everthing. Bug summed up the feeling of the group when he said he didn't want to see the day when, if he found a fly in his soup, it was supposed to be there.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.

FROM THE CORNER

By ERNIE CERESA

The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Andrew Heiskell, (Chairman of the Board, Time Magazine) to President Ford regarding the recent postal rate increase.

Dear Mr. President: Recently, you and members of your staff held a meeting at the White House with magazine publishers in which you indicate that you will continue to oppose both additional federal appropriations to defray the increasing costs of public services provided by the U.S. Postal Service and funds for phasing increases in second class mail rates as authorized by Congress in P.L. 93-328.

As you are aware, you and your associates have repeatedly described appropriations for public service by the Postal Service as "subsidies" to the various users whether such users happen to require these services or not. You have also compared the deficit problems of the postal service to the deficit problems of the City of New York.

New York is yours. Let me demonstrate how apt the comparison is. We all can recognize that a major element in the New York problem has been the unwillingness of political management—in this case the city officials—to come to grips with escalating demands of the municipal workers union.

What has been the situation in the operations of the postal service? Federal fiscal year 1971 was the last year under the pre-reform postal system, the long existing system under which postal rates and postal expenditures were set by Congress. Fiscal year 1972 was a period of transition. In fiscal year 1973, the first year of full operation, the reform postal system generated a deficit of \$13 million. In the fiscal year 1974, the deficit had swollen to \$438 million; in fiscal year 1975, which ended this summer, the deficit was \$825 million; and in the current fiscal year which will end June 30, 1976, the Postmaster General currently predicts the deficit will exceed \$1.4 billion dollars—including a 13 cent first class letter rate. You are right Mr. President. Such arithmetic is quite comparable to the record in New York.

Salaries and benefits now account for 85 per cent of the postal budget. The basic wage of postal workers nationwide is presently \$13,400 a year. To carry your analogy a little further, the average basic wage of a New York policeman is \$14,700; New York firemen \$14,700; New York teachers \$13,200.

On a national basis the average policy salary is \$11,800; firemen \$11,200; teachers \$11,600. Consider also that assistant professors of four year colleges earn a national average of \$13,400.

With the pay hikes granted in this year's postal wage settlement, the average pay of postal workers will probably rise to \$16,500 by 1978—an additional increase of more than 23 per cent over present levels. That will cost the Postal Service an additional \$2 billion in wages alone.

You are, I believe aware that the continuation of this course will vitally effect a major medium of the communication of ideas in America, the many diverse magazines and smaller newspapers. But even if this were acceptable to you—consider the comments of the present Postmaster General, Mr. Bailar, who indeed is struggling earnestly to cope with the impossible conditions thrust upon him by law and by circumstances not entirely under his control:

"The last thing we want is a constant round of postal increases because we recognize that not only would this hamper the free flow of commerce and ideas through the mails, but it would also reduce our volume and hence our revenue, thus compounding our financial problems."

Mail volume decreased last year for the first time in years. Parcel post is down. Electronic transfer of funds will increasingly affect First Class mail, and the volume of magazines and newspapers will dwindle as major magazines including those we publish and major newspapers such as the Wall Street Journal, flee the mails in the urban centers, where they now generate a favorable positive cash flow for the Postal Service.

The present course of action, suggested by the White House meeting with publishers can have only one end: bankruptcy of the Postal Service—a bankruptcy that in the process will go a long way toward making the medium of print too expensive for millions of Americans.

The Founding Fathers' intention was that the postal system should encourage the free flow of information in our nation. It was their conviction that the postal system was a necessary service of government and not a business. George Washington stated in 1782 that a postal service was needed to "bind these people to us with a chain that can never be broken." History shows that our first President was right. For nearly 200 years, Congress and the American people have recognized the democratic and educational values of magazines and newspapers. Today, magazines and newspapers are jeopardized by an ineffective and misguided postal system.



"Tell Me The Part Again Where They Said You Were Too Dumb To Run A Winning Team."

Gleanings

R.A. Maxwell

● 1.8 million GI's are training at the college level, on the GI Bill of June 1, 1966. If you are under that bill you should take advantage of the opportunity because the bill runs out May 31, 1976.

● Hey! All you aliens from foreign lands don't forget that time is running out. You must report your address during the month of January. Forms are available at the Post Office.

● Heppner is qualified for Flood and Mudslide insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. Rates are Federally subsidized and are low in cost. If you are interested call your licensed insurance agent or broker.

● Did you get a snowmobile, minibike, four-wheel drive jeep or other off-road vehicle for Christmas? You should get the new booklet "Off-Road Vehicle Use on Federal Lands." Every area has different rules and if you want to play the game you have to know the rules. Contact the nearest National Forest Service office for your copy.

● Somebody out there is doing something . . . Morrow County recorded the most dramatic gain in farm sales in Oregon during 1975. A great big 50 per cent increase to \$74 million. A total of 36 Oregon counties showed increases. Umatilla and Marion were the only ones

to go over \$100 million. Congratulations to Morrow County farmers.

● Mark your calendar for the greatest show on earth . . . Mobile Home Show that is. The very latest in mobile homes. New design and up to date styles for your viewing. The dates Feb. 18-22, 1976.

● Are you over 30? Maybe you would like to take a trip back to the 40s. The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra will be at the McCrae Activity Center on the BMCC campus at 8 p.m., Feb. 3.

● May I be the first to tell you the new hunting seasons for 1976 have been announced. Deer season will open Oct. 2 and chukar, partridge become legal on that day. Pheasant hunting in Eastern Oregon begins Oct. 16. Rocky Mountain elk season starts Oct. 30 followed by Roosevelt Elk on Nov. 13. The rifle and bow hunting seasons for antelope will begin Aug. 28. Lots of luck.

● A smile for this week . . . Everytime the hunter shot a duck, his dog retrieved it by running along the top of the water. After this had happened several times, the hunter proudly asked an onlooker, "Notice anything unusual about my dog?" "Sure do," the onlooker replied. "He can't swim."

1926

Charles Latourell was elected president, Leonard Gilliam, secretary and Frank Shively, assistant field secretary at a meeting of the Heppner Rod and Gun Club.

E.C. Carlson, who was doing business in the city, reports that there has been an abundance of moisture in the Gooseberry section.

S.E. Notson, district attorney and George McDuffee, sheriff, were in attendance of the law enforcement officers meeting held in Portland.

Ralph Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Moore, and Elmer Buckman, son of Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Buckman, departed Wednesday for Marshfield, where they have secured employment and will remain there for several months.

A number of neighbors and friends enjoyed a pleasant dance at the ranch home of Mr. and Mrs. Alec Hunt on Saturday evening.

A happy surprise was arranged for Buster Gentry, when his father J.E. Gentry assisted by his grandmother, Mrs. Sara White, entertained a number of Buster's friends in honor of his sixteenth birthday.

GROUND HOG DAY
FEB. 2



The mail pouch

EDITOR:

I am seeking men and officers who served aboard the mighty aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Ticonderoga. Every man who ever served on this fine ship is entitled to join our group. We will be having our next Annual Reunion this coming May at Ticonderoga, NY.

If interested and for more details, write me, giving your rate-rank, the division or Air Group and year(s) on board.

JAMES H. MORGAN, JR.
Big "T" Veterans' Assoc.
Waterside Lane
So. Berwick, Maine 03908

EDITOR:

I feel I owe you a double debt of gratitude. First, I understand you printed my original request for information about the earlier life of my grandfather, Robert F. Hynd. This resulted in my receiving, by mail, three very kind responses from readers of your paper.

And now today I received the Gazette-Times of Jan. 22, 1976 as well as a copy of the Gazette of June 18, 1903. I am truly thrilled to have the edition of the earlier Gazette with its information about the Heppner flood. And I most certainly enjoyed reading the current paper with its letter to the editor about my grandfather as well as the interesting column about the Hynd family.

Let me thank you for your quick and generous response to my letter. I have a warm feeling for Heppner after this exchange.

Perhaps you would like to know of Robert F. Hynd's three children by his second wife, one son, Robert B. died April 1975, in Salem. The other son, William, and his wife are living next door to my father and mother (Robert's daughter), on Bainbridge Island near Seattle.

MRS. DONALD CULBERTSON,
Seattle, WA.

PCA Meeting

Pendleton Production Credit Association, (P.C.A.), which includes Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallawa counties will hold its 42nd annual stockholders meeting in Pendleton, Saturday, Feb. 7, 1976, at Blue Mountain Community College student union. This will be a luncheon meeting.

IONE CITY TV
COOP TO MEET

The 21st annual meeting of the Ione City TV Co-op will be held tonight, Thursday, Jan. 29, 8 p.m., at the Ione American Legion Hall.

In conjunction with the meeting, election of two directors and a secretary-treasurer will also be held. Directors whose terms expire are Bob Baker and Bob Montgomery.



According to Mohammedan myth, the earth is sunk in a huge mountain and its foundation is an emerald, the reflection of which gives the azure hue to the sky.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
Box 237, 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.