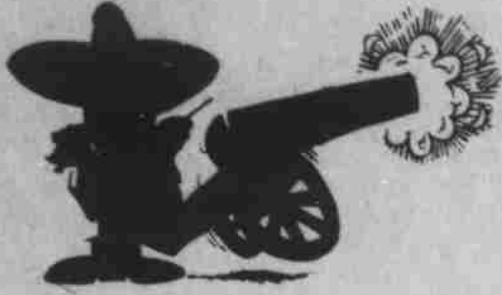


FROM THE CORNER



By ERNIE CERESA

For the first time in many years, perhaps in its entire history, the City of Heppner will have to rely on voters to pass a levy election to run the city for the coming fiscal year. Voters will be asked to vote on \$93,866 outside of the six per cent limitation at a special election May 17.

The budget committee has studied the budget and they have reported there is no fat in the budget. If the voters do not pass the budget the common council will have no alternative than to cut some of the services now rendered to people of the community.

For the past 20 years Police Chief Dean Gilman has waited for the time when his department could give the people of Heppner 24 hour police protection. He has finally accomplished his goal. If voters fail to pass the levy the city has no alternative but to release one of the police officers. If this happens the people of the community would not have full police protection 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A 20 year dream wiped out by the stroke of the voters.

The public library is used by both young and old, however, there is the cost of maintaining the library plus the salary of the librarian. Perhaps this would have to be closed.

Presently the city streets are being kept in good repair and are being washed clean. Another department the city officials might save money, would be to terminate a position on the city crew. Any repair or paving work would not be completed.

The swimming pool could be closed for the summer. Most communities depend on the money received from the youngsters during the summer months to maintain the pool. Last year the city grossed approximately \$2,800 from the pool and paid out nearly \$8,000 for services, managers, help and maintenance.

While the pool is a cheap baby sitter for many parents, costing only 35 cents per day per child, perhaps the pool could be closed for the summer.

The City of Heppner has the cheapest water and sewer rates for small communities in the state. Perhaps residents would welcome another increase in water and sewer rates. Most of the smaller communities in the state have water and sewer rates nearly double those of Heppner.

A portion of the increase in the city budget is due primarily to the cost of living and inflation, however, most of the city employees are still below the monthly salaries of other city employees. If the city were to fire all of its employees in an effort to meet the monthly cost to run the city, the city would not have sufficient funds to operate the city for the coming fiscal year.

The decision will be up to the voters when they go to the polls this month; however, before voting against the levy take a long, hard look at the alternatives facing the common council, then cast your ballot.

NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS

The City Council wants to abandon the parking meters. While the income from the meters amounts to approximately \$250 per month for a period of 7-8 months out of the year, it also costs \$50 per month to maintain the meters.

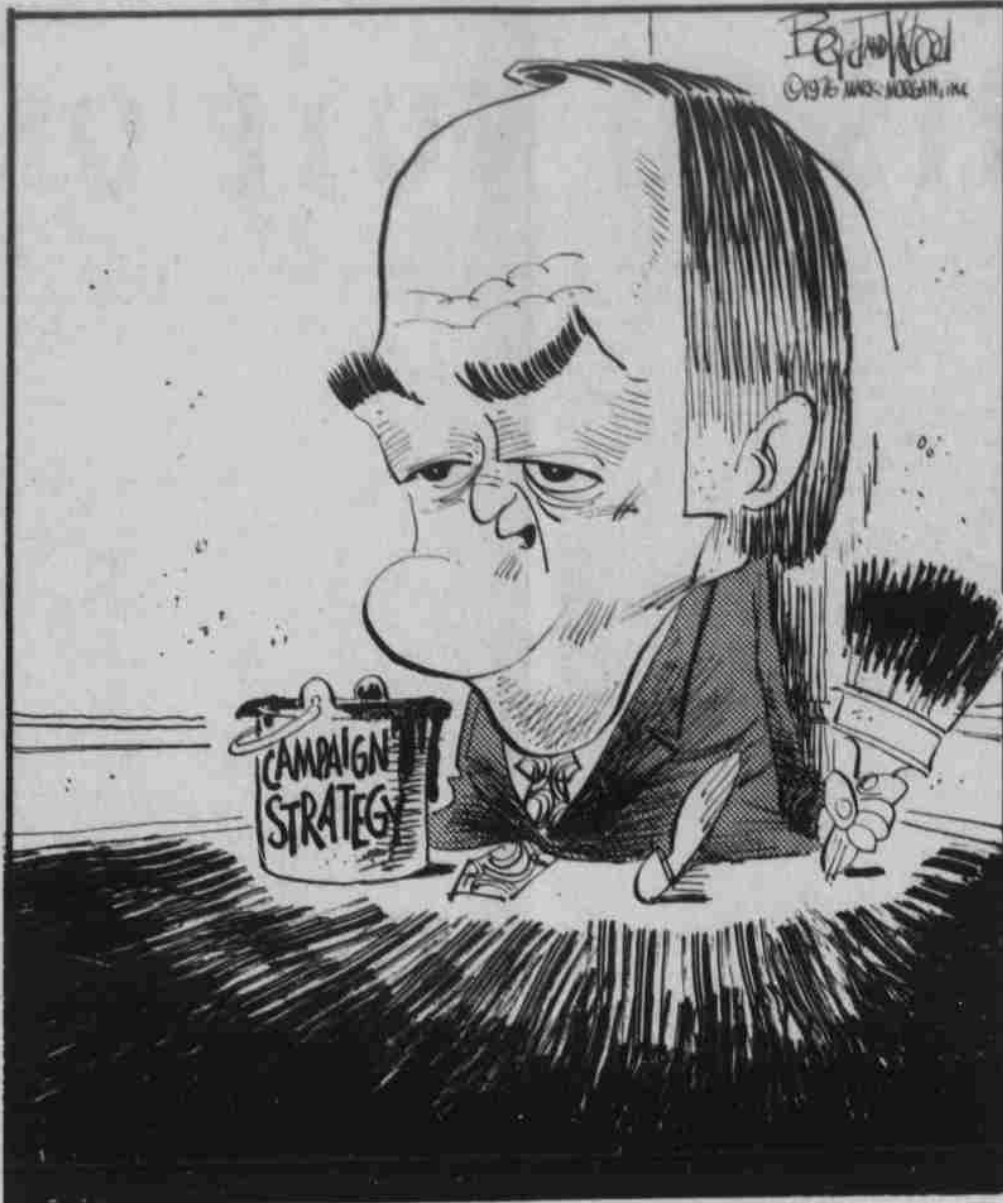
While the revenue from the meters amounts to \$1,800 per year the meters have outlived their usefulness. They have been in effect in the City of Heppner for the last 20 years and all they have brought to the city is a pain in the neck. Each time an officer writes some unsuspecting shopper a violation the person swears he will never come back to Heppner.

If the city wanted to put the meters on a paying basis they would have to hire another police officer to do nothing more than patrol the meters every two hours during the day.

While many people think the present police staff is capable of doing this job they should take a look at the amount of paper work the police officers are required to complete for each arrest. They are bound to appear in court for major offenses and spend a good deal of time with the district attorney.

Some of the merchants may bellow about the removal of the meters and others are bound to insist that employees will park in the spaces of the various store, taking the parking spaces of the customers. If the employers want to keep employees from parking in front of their or any other merchants store, a simple solution would be to notify the employee he would be fired if they parked in the spaces reserved for customers. Rather than jerk the meters at once, the council recommends they be bagged for a 30 day period and at the end of that time the Police Chief be consulted regarding any traffic or lengthy parking problem.

At the June meeting the Common Council will make a decision on the parking meters, whether they go or new ones are to be installed. In the mean time enjoy 30 days of free parking.



"I Have Decided I Will Not Run."

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

I certainly have no desire to become a weekly pen pal to the Editor of the Heppner Gazette Times. However, the editorial that appeared in last week's Heppner Gazette Times does require some comment. If the editorial was written to incite the public, then it has worked, because I am incited.

First, let me say that I agree wholeheartedly with about 90 per cent of the editorial. I certainly agree that the public has a right to cast ballots on all public issues.

The main message I wish to convey in this letter is to apologize to those people who went to the polls in Heppner and did not have the opportunity to vote on the Blue Mountain Community College budget and board of directors. Ernie Ceresa expressed this point very well and I will not expound on his comments. I can assure you that I will personally see that an adequate number of ballots are delivered to and available at each polling place at next year's election.

I must say also that our records show that we did prepare election packets for the five polling places in Morrow County, and the number of ballots included in those packets were as follows:

- 800 Heppner Consolidated Precinct
- 400 Ione Precinct
- 400 Irrigon Precinct
- 300 Lexington Precinct
- 300 Boardman Precinct

When it was reported to me that the Heppner precinct did not have a sufficient number of ballots for those voters who appeared at the polls to vote, I immediately checked our records and on finding that 800 ballots were supposed to have been sent to the Heppner precinct, I tried to determine what had happened to the other 400 ballots.

At this point no good would be served by trying to pinpoint one person who was responsible for the shortage of ballots at the Heppner precinct. Suffice it to say that we delivered the material for all five polling places to Lexington and from that time until the time the material was turned over to the election board, the envelopes which contained the election material had not been opened. The people in our Business Office are firm in their conviction that the 800 ballots were included in the envelope when it left this office, but it is obvious that the 800 ballots were not delivered to the polling place or part of them were misplaced at the polling site.

The investigation I have conducted has failed to determine where the problem may have occurred. I see no point in pursuing it further because even though I regret that all Heppner voters did not have the opportunity to vote on our budget, the fact remains that had all the people who did not vote cast a "no" vote, it would still not have affected the election results.

So, please accept my apology for this unfortunate error and let me assure you that we will be sure that the number of ballots delivered to each polling place will be more than adequate for all those who wish to vote. I have always been a firm believer in large voter turnouts, and it is most unfortunate that an error somewhere along the line resulted in the Heppner precinct not receiving the number of ballots that our records show were sent to that precinct.

I hope it will not be necessary for me to write to you again for at least a year.

RON DANIELS

President, Blue Mountain Community College

EDITOR:

Coming across "la Walsingham's" diatribe in your April 16 issue, while sojourning in Arlington, aroused my interest. Her ire at the humane information supplied by humane, compassionate people, is rather ludicrous, but it points out her complete disdain for our exploited wild and domestic creature, for near the end her hypocrisy is seen as she uses the words "suffering and agony", the Great Swamps National Park Wildlife "Refuge" deer herds dying of starvation and from attack from dog packs. At this point her hatred of dogs is most evident. And—may I ask, "Why haven't these surplus deer been transported to other areas, less inhabited, rather than always target for the hunters?" This is real wildlife management, there is no such word as conservation among hunters and Game Commission.

CBS's "Guns of Autumn" was an actual integration of how most hunters behave, and I have learned through observation at close range. It shocked the A.R. and the N.R.A. to have the non hunting public see them as they really are, hence the legal proceedings. While you are attempting to illuminate funds to Humane organizations, you better look into the files of the above, and note the millions allocated to discredit the humane movement, thru specially placed propaganda, and to undercover groups to find anything that could be used against humane organizations.

Your N.R.A. whose ranks are swelled by military brass and prominent congressmen, see to it that all legislation continues to be pro-weapons and pro-hunting.

You went to great lengths to protect the American "Humane Society" who has made a mockery out of their blindfolded "supervision" over the treatment of rodeo stock.

Lastly, regarding juvenile vandalism, you are most assuredly condoning it, when you ask, "How could this be misconstrued as a deterioration of parental responsibility?" A child's actions, away from home, does reflect good or poor guidance.

Take a waltz—Kay.

MRS. JEANNE DAVIS
Portland, OR.

EDITOR:

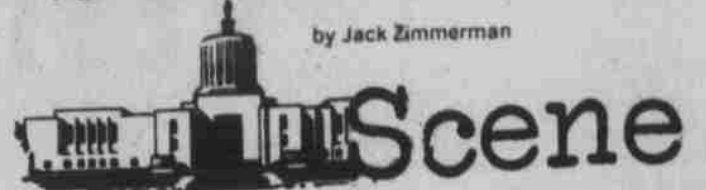
Enclosed check for \$7 for extension of subscription to the Gazette-Times for one year.

Still interested in Heppner—tho see very few names of residents of our times. Mrs. H. born in Heppner; self born in Pendleton. Both graduates of Heppner Public School (on the hill), class of 1913, HHS.

E.O. HENDRICKSON
INA (JONES) HENDRICKSON

Salem

by Jack Zimmerman



Descriptive reactions to Gov. Bob Straub's proposed Oregon Power Authority range from "sheer brilliance" to barnyard expletives unlikely to appear in family newspapers.

Those most enthused about the plan designed to reduce electric bills for residential and rural users are residential and rural users now paying for privately generated electricity.

Those reacting more cautiously tend to question practical application of a state-wide non-profit power distribution system. And expressing their concern in earthy terms are holders of some 43,000 jobs now dependent upon the same power the Governor proposes to give to residential and rural users.

In the background—and possibly obscured by a misconception the plan will create new power—lurks a critical electric energy shortage likely to occur as early as 1978.

The Governor has emphasized his plan doesn't create any new juice. It simply provides a vehicle by which Bonneville Power Administration can reallocate the power it now provides to high energy consuming industries. Contracts with those industries begin expiring in 1983. Straub wants Oregon to be first in line for that power if it's diverted to other users.

That much of the plan is acceptable to everyone—except the industries and those who work for them.

Oregon's private utilities long have supported reallocation of BPA power. Sixty-nine per cent of BPA's firm energy sales to utilities last year went to Washington. Twenty-three per cent was sold in Oregon and 8 per cent in other states.

By law, BPA must serve preference customers first. They are defined as public bodies and cooperatives serving residential and rural users. Washington has more public and co-ops. Under the Straub plan, all of Oregon would fit the definition.

While Oregon private utilities support BPA power reallocation—and that federal agency currently is readying a reallocation plan for release 18 months hence—they fear the public may be lulled into ignoring the impending shortage.

Since they have to charge more for the power they generate than BPA charges for cheap hydro-energy churned in the Columbia River system, they also may be pondering problems they'll have serving industries now served by BPA.

Since those industries use more power than domestic users, it might appear there would be a surplus under the Straub plan and the state could sell the excess to private utilities. Then the privates could mix it with their own power to serve the industries.

It appears to be a neat package. It takes existing power, shuffles distribution, reallocates end users and gives preferred domestic users a reduced electricity bill.

Gov. Straub admits there is one big flaw. Congress could decide the aluminum industry is in the public interest and grandfather existing plants into BPA's customer mix. That would mean the power they're now using wouldn't be available for reallocation to the Oregon Power Authority.

Meanwhile, the shortage is coming. And since there is no prospect for additional cheap federal hydro power, private utilities are left with the task of additional generation.

Private utilities are privately financed. They depend on investors for developmental money. And investors expect a profit on the money they give to private utilities to generate more power.

As the cost of generating electricity increases, the cost of privately generated juice increases. As the cost of this energy increases, the cost of products produced by dependent industries increases. If customers can afford the higher prices, things work out okay. If they can't, then things aren't so neat.

If the aluminum market soured, jobs end. And aluminum isn't the only product involved. Many of Oregon's industries are energy intensive.

Right now most new generating projects have been delayed from three months to three years by slow equipment deliveries, court suits and other tactics by environmental groups, financing problems and a drop in workforce productivity.

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Clem Webster allowed during the session at the country store Saturday night that whoever said that crime don't pay didn't reckon with the white collar boys in the Watergate break-in. Most of em that got off or got out after serving time got well writing books about their version of true confessions, declared Clem, and the crime opened the way for outside people to write books and make movies about the inside they don't know nothing about.

But what set Clem off this last time was where he saw in the papers that Dwight Chapin was being paid at the rate of \$45,000 a year while he was serving eight months in the pen for lying to a Watergate grand jury. It come out that Chapin had a deal with an insurance company that called for his pay to keep going. Clem said you can't figger people. Folks used to say a man had to at least look honest to sell used cars, but here we got a case where a company has been paying \$45,000 a year in the belief that folks will stand in line to buy insurance from a proven liar.

About all that proves, broke in Zeke Grubb, is that it's human nature to work things to the best advantage we can. Zeke had saw this piece where people are taking advantage of Medicare and food stamp laws everwhere. This one story in New Jersey showed, fer instand, that wheel chairs, hospital beds and other equipment was being rented fer up to six times what they cost to buy outright. A \$168 wheel chair was rented for six years for \$1,060, and a bed that cost \$280 was rented 58 months for \$1,600. Zeke said, because the law allows patients that pay 20 per cent of the cost to choose between renting and buying, and they'd ruther stretch out the payments of their part.

As fer food stamps, Clem went on, it's another case of the honor system. The Government trying to help folks eat better has got the honor, and the folks has got the system. Checks have showed that dogs eat better in families that use food stamps. You can't buy regular dog food with the stamps, so folks buy hamburger and even top-grade beef fer the dogs. Clem passed along one story where this feller using food stamps took one of his good home-cured hams by the grocery store and sold it. He used some of the money from the sale of the ham to pay his share of his month's supply of food stamps. Then he took the stamps to the grocery store, bought his ham back and he had enough cash money left to git a haircut and take in a picture show afore heading home with what he left with. Of course, Clem said, that's jest a story.

Bug Hookum said he thought Clem was going to say the feller used his extra cash to buy booze which would be helping the food situation. Bug had saw where the corn and wheat left from making liquor is being tested fer use as protein filler in sausage and other meats—fer people.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.

As Others See It

Just To Hear?

The county school board has called a special meeting next Tuesday evening to "hear" from patrons about the recently rejected school budget and serial levy.

Note the word "hear."

That's apparently all the board plans to do. Members have already said they expect to make no cuts, or only small ones, in the

budget.

We don't think this is the way to go. Only about one-third of the voters supported the budget last week. The other two-thirds turned thumbs down.

The board should enter into a public meeting on the budget with open minds. To do less is inviting another defeat.

Newport News Times

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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The official newspaper of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow.

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