



A young buck, still in velvet, prances through a green field near Heppner.

(G-T Photo)

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES HEPPNER

## Editorial & Viewpoint

### A three ring circus

The Heppner Common Council, Monday found themselves in a precarious predicament.

As one man put it, the whole lot was "between a rock and a hard place."

The story evolved around a three ring circus. In one ring, Umatilla Ready Mix was vying for another two week extension on its moving deadline; in a second ring, citizens against the cement company sat like lions, ready for the kill; and finally in the center ring and the most influential and best watched, the common council sat, either waiting to tame or be devoured by the lions.

The citizens said the first two week extension was already too much and that the concrete company should take wings and fly right down the road.

The Ready Mix company, sighting jobs to be done and higher taxes, said they were trying to fly but just couldn't get off the ground.

The council's view. It either had to side with the citizens and throw the concrete bird in the air; or give it two more weeks, long enough to chip away a little cement and enable it to take to the air on its own feathers.

The decision, the council said, was a "compromise". It gave the cement company two more weeks. It gave the citizens the gratification of knowing that if the company didn't move out of town, they'd be shot with a \$200 a day fine.

In a couple weeks for sure, everybody in this circus will know who's wearing the top hat.

wcp

## Cement company gains second 2 week extension

Umatilla Ready-Mix got another reprieve from the Heppner Common Council Monday night.

The concrete batch company, who was asked to move out of town as early as May 6 in a petition, ran up against a handful of opposition at the council meeting.

The council read a letter from Loy Keene, Ready Mix official, stating that the company would start to move out within the next three weeks. The letter said that a job with the Heppner High School, pouring the floor, for the new shop, has been holding up the progress of the move.

Dave Eckman, the citizen spokesman, called the letter a "snow job." "They had two months and the time was up yesterday," Eckman told the council.

Eckman added that "I don't think we should have to put up with that . . . not for another three weeks either. Let's bring the assessor back in and appraise our homes for an industrial zone."

The altercation stems from a nuisance ordinance almost three months ago that asked the concrete company to move because of noise and dust.

The council gave the company another two weeks addition and that deadline was up August 2. A \$200 a day fine was entertained two weeks ago, if the concrete company had not moved or made an attempt to.

Monday night, six citizens opposed to the company, asked the council to stand on the August 2 deadline and start the fine.

But, after some deliberation and discussion, the council ok'd another two week stay for the Ready Mix facility.

Keene told the council that there was "a lot involved in moving a business. We are making attempts to move right now."

Keene said the high school job, if the company had to shut down and move right now, would end up costing taxpayers that much more for concrete at a later date.

Keene said he didn't realize this was "such a pressure point" and said the company was "taking a chance to move because Kinzua lawyers haven't got a lease agreement drawn up yet." The new site is on Kinzua land, north of Heppner.

Keene said there was another spot available in Lexington

private enterprise consideration" but, he added, "I can't see postponing this time after time."

Warren Plocharsky, the final councilman, agreed with the extension and the compromise.

In other business, the council:

—agreed to burn a city lot

*'We haven't been dragging our feet*

*. . . between a rock and a hard place.'*

Loy Keene

but with the pressure to move, he had not had time to look into that possibility.

Keene said 130 yards of cement still have to be poured on the school's shop floor. He said it is "going to cost more if the plant has to close down."

"A crash move now and we'll be sticking out necks out a mile," Keene said, because of the lack of a lease agreement.

Keene said there were no specification or conditions on the original permit.

He said, "we haven't been dragging our feet . . . this has put us between a rock and a hard place."

Keene said that "we are not bowing our backs . . . we are trying to be cooperative."

Despite the citizens asking for the council to stick to their August 2 deadline, a tour of the council table resulted in a 3-2 reprieve.

Larry Mills, councilman and landowner involved, asked the council for a two week addition to the already stretched out deadline.

Around the table, Ray Boyce voiced his disapproval of the lengthening, saying a "\$200 a day fine would make somebody move. We've set around long enough."

Bob Jones, councilman, agreed with Mills and the two week extension, adding that after that, the \$200 a day fine should become effective.

Newly sworn in Cliff Green, said the council should "give

near Gale Street. The citizens in the area agreed to keep the lot up.

—heard the Chief of Police Dean Gilliam report for July, —accepted the resignation of Frank Ayers, a dump official.

—approved a liquor permit license to Central Market.

—agreed to have city attorney Bob Abrams review an agreement between the city and county to have the county justice court take over city traffic offenses.

—agreed to have Abrams draw up an ordinance, licensing coin operated amusement devices in the city. The council set license fees of \$20 a year on pool tables and shuffle boards; and \$100 a year for pinball and foos ball machines, per machine.

lone

man

delegate

Stephen Lindstrom, son of the Roy Lindstrom's, lone, will be attending the Republican Convention at Kansas City. Steve will go as an alternate delegate from the State of Virginia.

His mother explains that he has been very active politically since his years at Pacific Lutheran University. He worked then as a legislative aide to Sen. Falk of Tacoma. Presently Steve is an assistant public administrator for the North Hampton Sanitation District. Lindstrom has been an active Republican wherever he has lived and worked. This year he was transportation chairman for the Virginia State Republican Convention.

## City trys grant

Heppner will try to gain a federal grant through an emergency employment bill.

The city now has 12 inch main lines coming into the city from the city wells, except for the last three miles into town. Those last three miles are in eight inch line and need to be replaced.

With eight-inch lines, the city can pump 850-900 gallons a minute. With the new 12-inch

line, a 12-1300 gallons a minute would be possible.

The city is using over a million gallons a day this summer.

A new emergency employment bill in the U.S. Government could make it possible for the city to gain federal monies, with the new line installation causing employment.

## Service wants dentist

A public meeting to discuss the placement of a dentist in Heppner has been slated by the Tri-County Health Services for August 10.

Right now, Dr. Harold Huber is a full time dentist in town but wants to work only part time.

The Tri-County Health Service would like to come away from the meeting, declared a

critical shortage area for dentists. The meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. at the court house.

According to Liz Curtis, a member of the board of directors, the declaration would insure better possibilities of obtaining another dentist in the area.

Attending the meeting will be the Eastern Oregon Dis-

trict Dental Society and a person from the National Health Service Corps from Seattle.

People that can attend the meeting are urged to do so. If they cannot, Mrs. Curtis urges that letters be written and can be left with Mark Murray and Murray's Drug Store in Heppner.

## Correspondence & Comment

### Corporate Agriculture

EDITOR:

The Agri-Business Council of Oregon can understand the Grange; the Farmers' Union; the NFO, and other organizations' disappointment in their inability to secure the necessary number of signatures for the Initiative Petition dealing with corporate agriculture. Although opposed to the Initiative, Agri-Business Council congratulates these fellow agricultural organizations' efforts in bringing some of the State's major agricultural problems to the attention of the citizens of Oregon.

The family farm is one of the most important and prominent segments in our State's and Nation's agriculture. There is little doubt that the progress of this Nation and this State can be directly attributed to the achievements of the agricultural community. The family farm has been, and will continue to be, the major thrust of a progressive economy.

All of Oregon's agricultural organizations should look to opportunities which will bring about progress for this essential industry.

TOM HARTUNG, President  
Agri-Business Council of Oregon

### Silent majority

By Jack Lenhardt

"... One Giant leap for Mankind." That was heard on a Christmas Eve several years ago as man first set foot on the moon. Space travel had begun. Rocks and sand were the

order of the day but the scientific achievement of safely transporting a person to another heavenly body was astounding.

Later, our space probe entered the atmosphere of Venus. This vehicle had been sent to investigate the conditions hidden from our telescopes by that ever-present cloud of atmosphere. Our scientists were disappointed to find the Venus temperatures extremely high and the chemicals in the air so hostile to man.

On July 20 of this year Viking I successfully landed on Mars. The planning and calculating involved to complete a mission of this nature so involved and complex as to be almost incomprehensible. The highly-controlled soft landing occurred 212 million miles from earth. After the landing, cameras went into action, sending a panoramic view of Mars to our TV screens. The mechanical arms then began to scoop soil for analyzing. All of these actions are completely controlled from this 212 million mile distance and it all seems so unbelievable.

The thing I noticed about the venture was the fact that our scientists found, like on the moon, nothing but rocks and sand. There were no trees to be found. There was no green grass. There were no rivers and streams, no white clouds floating in a blue sky and no waves lapping on any seashore. There were no seas.

If they had found a lake with a fish, and nothing else, the world would have been gasping with astonishment. If they had found a lone pine tree, and nothing else, the scientists would be planning manned trips to Mars to study that lone pine. If they had found any one thing that we see and take for granted every day, the buzzing of conversation and newspaper headlines would seem never to cease. But they didn't. Of the millions of living things we have on earth, they didn't find one, and many people still believe all these things on earth were created by chance?

Perhaps the \$1 billion cost of the Viking I exploration was worth the increased appreciation of our beautiful planet earth.

The  
Heppner  
Gazette  
Times

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

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Dolores Reed, Co-publisher  
W.H.C. Phinney, 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.