



## Stop the world

The affairs of this world show an ever changing face. Due to this fact, many people would like to stop the world in order to get off. I learned one thing from my early experiences with horseback riding. You don't have to stop the horse in order to get off. I think the same thing holds true of the world.

Well, here I am again at the beginning of another exciting week in Heppner. Herein follows the results of random thinking as I waited for rain, hail, wind, etc.

### PUFF OF SMOKE THEORY:

According to one theory, we are all on this earth to help one another understand what is happening. People who believe this theory claim that when we understand what it is all about, we will go up in a big puff of smoke.

People who reject the puff of smoke theory claim that if we don't understand what it is all about, we will eventually all go up in a ball of fire.

I say where there is smoke there is fire.

People who reject the puff of smoke theory and the ball of fire theory often settle for the Keg of Sudds Theory. As C.W. Farnsworth once said, "A bottle of suds on two legs is enough to scare a tame bear from a pool of pure rocky mountain spring water."

### DOWNHOME PHILOSOPHY

The juke box at the Wagon Wheel Cafe was playing a plaintive country tune. On a voice filled with emotion came words to the effect that she wanted to be loved "just for herself."

Somehow the song brought to mind another gem of country philosophy. "Never look a gift horse in the mouth," or was it "Never take a gift horse in the house?"

### STUFF AND NONSENSE:

Into mid-day Saturday, the big event on the police beat was the removal of two residents from Heppner to the mental hospital in Pendleton. We are not too sure about the one who came back.

The event gave me an idea for a best selling book. I am going to call it—"One Flew Over the Rodeo Grounds."

Going to the mental hospital really doesn't make the people who go different from those who don't go. The major difference is that they are committed there and we are committed here. The people who work at the hospital are committed there, too.

Some people who are in mental institutions are superior in some respects to some mammals. For example, most men not only have no way of understanding a Porpoise, they also have no assurance that the Porpoise doesn't understand them. This fact drove one man crazy, but didn't bother the Porpoise.

The first thing I plan to do when I have the spare time is go to the ocean and talk with a Porpoise. Talking with a Porpoise is very simple. Getting a reply is something else. Getting someone to go with you to the beach for that Porpoise is also something else.

After reading about man's attempt to communicate with the Porpoise, the reason for failure becomes very apparent. The first thing you must do is convince the Porpoise that you are not going to write a book about him.

The problem all started when someone quoted a conversation between the walrus and the carpenter. The walrus hasn't spoken since. Carpenters have also been pretty quiet since then.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Live hard, love hard, die young and leave a little room for housing in Heppner.

### MORE NONSENSE

Gov. Bob Straub, in an energy-saving message to the state, said today that some Heppner residents are guilty of wasting state water supplies. The problem, Straub said, is simply that too many Heppner residents are getting wasted and then drinking inordinate amounts of precious water to cure chronic dehydration and cotton mouth.

After a helicopter tour over downtown Heppner, Straub said state experts estimate that the water consumed daily by some Heppner residents to combat dehydration is alone equal to the amount of water that would be saved by putting two bricks in every toilet tank in Oregon.

The governor left Heppner for a water conference in Denver, on a tail wind which produced rain and hail over much of the drought stricken area.

Straub was accompanied on his Heppner tour by two state game officers who had been briefed for days on reruns of Wild Kingdom.

The game officers took turns bulldozing and ear-tagging wild Heppnerites from the helicopter. The ear tag problem was conducted on a random sampling of Heppnerites found on the streets after dark. "The cost of sampling is well below the general cost of tagging elk. The people tagged were already tranquilized," the officers explained.

The game and fish department later issued special commendations to the officers involved in the Heppner tagging project. We consider it the most successful project since we traded Idaho a herd of elk for a handful of Bighorn sheep," the department said.

According to one nasty rumor, the elk stayed in Idaho and the Bighorn sheep migrated back over the border.

Straub said that the problem of dehydration in Heppner could be solved by nothing short of a special diversion of the Columbia River. The diversion would be routed smack dab through the Navy bombing range. Among advantages listed for the program would be the provision of moving targets for Navy bombing practice, irrigation water for adjacent lands and a stable transportation link between the north and south ends of Morrow County.

The Gazette-Times is already making plans to ship empty bottles to Boardman so that news may be floated to Heppner. Representatives in the legislature have promised us that, along with other meaningful bills, this plan will be put into effect just as soon as the legislature passes a law requiring water to run uphill.

### IN CLOSING WE WOULD VOTE FOR—

1. More executions conducted on political platforms.
2. Crime remaining in the streets where it belongs.
3. A 20 per cent cut in federal spending.

# Need clouds before seeding

We are in the seventh week of the Legislative Session and things have been moving right along.

Now that both the Senate and the House have passed the deadline for bill introduction by individual members, some of the serious work can be done in committee on the bills introduced.

I have introduced a bill (HB 3056) to exempt agriculture and forestry from the Department of Environmental Quality's noise regulations. It will also define agricultural and forestry operations.

A proposal which would require a constitutional change has been introduced in the House. It is designed to eliminate the 15-member

State Emergency Board, of which I have been a member, and proposes that the Senate become a year-round Legis-

## JACK SUMNER

lature, joined every other year by the Oregon House of Representatives.

The Emergency Board sits in monthly session during the interim between full sessions and officially acts as a mini-legislature on fiscal matters. If this resolution passes the Senate and the House it will go to the people for a vote.

There has been much controversy over the emergency state-operated cloud seeding project. The Governor has

called for an amendment to Oregon's Cloud Seeding Law that would allow the State Department of Water Resources to launch the project on an emergency basis without holding public hearings in advance. The cloud seeding could get underway in two to three weeks if the Legislature approves it. However, in many parts of my district I don't believe there has been a cloud in the sky for weeks!

Speaker Lang appointed a special committee to hear HJR 62, a measure that would rescind Oregon's vote on the Equal Rights Amendment. I testified before this committee and proposed an amendment to HJR 62 (the repealer) which would have applied the

ERA to the Oregon Constitution. This amendment was rejected by the committee. I feel the Oregon Legislature can and should pass the needed measures for equality for both men and women. An

amendment was adopted which reaffirmed Oregon's 1973 action on the ERA. The resolution will come to the House floor in this form.

If you would like any information concerning this leg-

islation or other legislation of interest to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. My office phone is 378-8815 and my address is H276 State Capitol, Salem 97310.

The Gazette-Times

## Editorially speaking

# Bill would give Ag Department more clout

Although stream and river flow becomes increasingly critical in Oregon, bills continue to pour into and out of committees here in Salem.

This week the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee held its first hearing on one of my top priority bills, SB 448, which is a measure to help bolster the Department of Agriculture by making the Board of Agriculture a policy-making board instead of merely an advisory group. It also takes the appointments to the commodity commissions out of the Governor's office and gives this responsibility to the Director of Agriculture. Another hearing will undoubtedly be held before the Senate will have an opportunity to vote on it.

The Local Government and Elections Committee held a hearing and sent to the floor of the Senate HB 2283. This measure pertains to the terms of members of special district boards such as water districts, irrigation districts, I.E.D. boards, fire districts and port districts. It is important to Senate District 28 because there are so many such groups involved.

A 1975 law made the terms of all members of special district boards expire simultaneously this year. The problems incurred by having the terms of all members of these boards expire at the same time, causing a lack of continuity and the loss of the expertise of senior board members who are familiar with the districts' problems, are the reason for this cor-

rective measure. This bill provides for overlapping terms of office.

I carried this bill on the floor of the Senate and it was approved with only three dis-

## KEN JERNSTEDT

sending votes. The Governor signed it the same afternoon so that it could become law in time to allow county clerks to properly prepare ballots for the forthcoming special district elections.

Concern about financing Oregon's schools continues to run high, and there are a number of bills being heard at present on this subject.

Much publicity has been given to Senate President Boe's "safety net" proposal calling for a maximum of two school levy elections. If both fail, the budget for the next year would be the previous year's amount, plus an auto-

matic 6 per cent increase. Results of a state-wide poll show that 60 per cent of the 800 persons contacted favor this concept. This is rather different from initial results of a poll I have been taking in Senate District 28. Rather than present this as a package, I divided it into two parts. While 80 per cent of a sampling of 125 persons favored a maximum of two levy elections, only 33 per cent favored using the previous year's budget, plus an automatic 6 per cent increase. 53 per cent favored using the previous year's levy, with voter approval of any additional amounts. 14 per cent were for closing the schools when money ran out and until a budget could be passed.

We are still in the process of tabulating answers to the questionnaire, which appeared in many of the newspapers in my Senate District, and I will go into more detail on the results in a future column.

## Get out and win

Until Mar. 15, nominations or declarations of candidacy are being accepted by the Morrow County Clerk for 28 directorships on 11 special district boards throughout Morrow County.

Directors will be elected on Apr. 19 to serve four year terms on three rural fire protection districts, four cemetery districts, two park districts, one water control district and the Port of Morrow. (See related story on Page 1 for election details.)

For years, many Morrow County citizens have served faithfully on these boards without pay. In most cases, they attend meetings at their own expense.

Any citizen who has been looking for a means of public service should consider one of these directorships. They represent a chance for significant involvement in community service.

If you have never accepted an opportunity for public service—if you are really serious about citizen participation in public works—We suggest that you file for one of the 28 directorships in your locality. *Uj*

## Vain vandalism

It is a vain performance to desecrate the unique and original design of the hand-made brick wall created by Oscar Lundell, a former talented Ione resident.

The wall particularly enclosed the "Woolery Home" on Second St., which is an object of interesting design.

The wall was an attraction for townsfolk and visitors.

It surely looks beautiful now!!

I much preferred Mr. Lundell's handiwork.

Francis M. Smouse  
Ione

## Pastor's Corner

(Rev. Mark Johnson—Pastor: Hope & Valby Lutheran Churches)

On the north end and the south end of Heppner, there are two large billboards; and during the past few months, these billboards have carried a particular message. There has been a picture of a young man or woman with the words "I found it" written across the sign. As most of you know, this "I found it" campaign is a new method of evangelism sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ, Inc. Whereas I am not opposed to evangelism and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ (in fact, I believe that this is to be an important aspect of the life of the church), I wonder if this "I found it" campaign perhaps gives the wrong impression of what salvation is all about. This method gives the impression that it is we who do the finding. I am not at all sure that this is the way it is meant to be.

As we look in the scriptures, I believe that we receive another impression of who is doing the finding. We see this in the lives of the people of the Bible. Abraham was not looking for God on the day that he was called to be the father of Israel (Genesis 12); Moses was not looking for God on the day that he was called through the burning bush (Exodus 3); the Apostle Paul was not looking for God on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). Yet, in each of these cases, it is God who is doing the looking and the finding. In the parables of Jesus, we see the same things happening. In the parable of the lost sheep and the parable of the lost coin, it is the shepherd who finds the sheep and the woman who finds the coin. (Luke 15) Again, it is God finding us and not we finding God.

This is the good news of the Gospel: not that "I found it," but that "I have been found." In my baptism, God has found me; through the preaching of the Word and the celebration of Holy Communion, God finds me; in new and glorious ways, God finds me each day of my life. The power of the Gospel and the uniqueness of the Christian faith is not that "I found it," but rather that "I have been found."

## Sr. Citizen tax law known by few

There are few Oregon residents who are aware that a law currently exists which allows homeowners age 62 or over to elect to defer the ad valorem taxes levied on their homesteads. To exercise this option, the person must file a claim for deferral with the county assessor and the State Treasurer after Jan. 1 and on or before Apr. 1 of each year in which the deferral is to be claimed. The law contains no minimum or maximum income requirement.

Eligibility requirements for the tax deferral under ORS 311.668 to 311.700 are that the individual:

1. Be 62 years old by Mar. 1 of the year in which the application is filed. If the individual dies while receiving the deferral, the spouse must contact the county assessor to have the deferral continued (the spouse must be at least 60 years of age within six months of the death of the original individual receiving the deferral);

2. Have a recorded title to the property or be purchasing the property under a recorded sales contract. If the individual owns the property with someone other than his or her spouse or if he or she has a life estate in the property, the individual is not eligible for deferral;

3. Live on the property in addition to owning the property;

4. Not be earning income from the property;

5. Not have unpaid taxes on the property at the time the deferral application is filed.

There are few senior citizens who currently take advantage of this law. This may be due in large part to lack of knowledge of this deferral program as well as a lack of understanding.

Additionally, a large number of seniors may not elect to exercise this option because they do not want to have a "lien" on their property even though it is not collectible during their lifetimes. What is overlooked is the fact that with tax deferral and only a six per cent interest charge on delayed payments, appreciation in value of property would in most cases preserve the current value without loss when the deferred taxes are paid.

Additional information on this program may be obtained from County Departments of Revenue and Taxation.

## Heppner Elk's Calendar

Thur., Feb. 24

Lodge, 8 p.m.

Fri., Feb. 25

Happy Hour, 4-6 p.m.  
Dinner, 6:30 p.m.  
Live Music  
Nelson Duo  
9-1:30 a.m.

Sat., Feb. 26

ELKS' ANNUAL

11 a.m.—registration at lodge  
1:30 p.m.—Ladies' team cards, Elkdo  
2 p.m.—Lodge and Initiation  
Dinner, 6-8:30 p.m.  
Dance to Marty Davis, 9-1:30 a.m.

For Elks Only

B.P.O.E. No. 358

Open everyday at 8 am for breakfast

A Heppner First

From 8-11 am, Mon. - Sun., West of Willow will feature a self-serving fruit breakfast bar!

## Breakfast Bar

Pears  
Plums  
Grapes  
Peaches  
Mandarin oranges  
Filled blueberry hotcakes  
Filled apple hotcakes  
Link sausage

\$2.50

Quantity & Quality guaranteed. Personally supervised by J. R. "I guarantee it."

## Breakfast Menu

Eggs—any style ham, bacon, or steak, hash browns, toast with ham or bacon \$2.50  
with steak \$3.00

For pizza to go,

call 676-5551

For sandwiches to go,

call 676-5149

West of Willow will serve breakfast after the Elk's Annual starting at midnight Saturday.

Package orders to go as always

- Seafood
- Steak
- Pizza

Sunday Luncheon Buffet 12-4

## THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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