

# VIEWPOINT

## Sifting through the TIMES



Students returning to the Heppner upper Elementary School this week in 1967 were in for a saturated surprise as a weekend rainstorm and a clogged roof drain combined to leave two of the classrooms under a few inches of water. "Damage was heavy in the room of Mrs. Justine

Weatherford on the upper level of the building and in the room of Mrs. Inez Erwin, on the main floor below Mrs. Weatherford's room.

"A considerable quantity of books and teaching materials together with paper and classroom displays were ruined or heavily damaged."

The Times reported that the students milled around outside for a while, with no place to go. They didn't know whether to laugh or cry, like the fellow who watched his mother-in-law drive his new Cadillac over the cliff.

In some cases, circumstances of the past lose their focus with the passage of time—in others, the significance grows as more fodder is gained for hindsight. The following viewpoint appeared on the Times pages in 1967 and is every bit as appropriate today as the day it was written.

### Time to 'Close Up' Rural America?

With problems of America's cities becoming No. 1 of all our domestic troubles, it is incongruous that an ever-increasing number of our people are being drawn to these population centers, only to be entrapped there. At the same time, the small towns, where there are so many advantages in living, threaten to become "ghost towns."

Mayor W. C. Rosewall brought in an article from Rural Electric Newsletter that puts the point over very well, and we pass it on to you:

"Next time you're in town, take a look up and down main street. Chances are there's another empty store. It's happening every day in hundreds of small towns across America.

"It's been happening that way for years. Every since we began discovering how fewer and fewer people could grow more and more food. That started an exodus that has resulted in 70 per cent of our people living on one per cent of our land. And it's getting worse. Each year another 500,000 to 600,000 people leave rural areas to settle in the city.

"You don't have to look beyond the front page of your newspaper to realize that this wholesale movement of people from rural areas to urban areas isn't solving much. But some people still seem to think—incredibly—that this migration is the only answer. Take a look at a few quotes that have popped up recently:

"...What the small town may have contributed in the past is one side of the coin; the other side is urbanism and the greatest opportunity in the history of man for him to reach his full potential. Where the small town kept him prisoner, urbanism gives him freedom of choice—choice of education, choice of profession, choice of marriage. If the small town is passing, we can't bemoan it."

"Current trends seem to indicate that the appropriate role for most of the very small towns is to pass slowly our of existence."

"(Some of our poverty problems can be solved) if we deliberately set about to create several thousand ghost towns in the state."

"These words aren't coming from crackpots. They're coming from respected leaders—economists and sociologists. They represent an idea that has gained acceptance to a point that it actually was expressed in a preliminary report

of an advisory commission to a federal agency. It might be time, said this preliminary report, to let rural America 'decline and die.' Other government experts have toyed with the recommendation that the government subsidize the movement of rural people to the cities—where—supposedly—it would be easier to meet the needs.

"Fortunately, the 'decline and die' idea is no longer expressed in that particular report. Enough people took exception to it at the right time. These people recognized that the solution to the trouble in the cities lies in the opposite direction—finding a way to revitalize rural America and keep the people there.

"What we need to do now is to stop talking about letting rural America 'decline and die.' Instead, we need to start talking about building around its advantages. We need to quit asking if we should stop the wholesale dumping of rural people into the cities and start trying to find out how we can stop it.

"It must be pretty hard to explain to a displaced farmer in Watts or Detroit that he now has 'the greatest opportunity in the history of man...' How much easier to help him find that opportunity in the land of his roots.

"It's not time to close up rural America. It's time to unlock its potential."

To this we add our heartiest editorial "Amen!" But we verily believe that people who cherish their rural living are going to have to work to preserve it. They are going to have to support one another, and each citizen must do his part in civic and community activities to help sustain the way of life that rural residents so enjoy.

### Letters to the Editor

#### Compliments rather than criticism

Editor,  
The Heppner Gazette-Times should be complimented rather than criticized for its plethora coverage of the Morrow County Fair and

Rodeo.  
For a small weekly newspaper to add the full edition dedicated to the Fair and Rodeo was commendable and most interesting to those who

are interested in such subjects. After all, the Gazette has many faithful readers who could care less about such annual events; and to try to serve the general public they must publish news and events of all kinds.  
To the Heppner Gazette, I say, keep up the good work.  
Sincerely,  
Clara Morgan

#### Whose highlight?

Editor,  
This is a letter in response to the "Local Sound Off-er of the Year" and her letter to the editor in last week's paper. I wouldn't be writing this letter if my name hadn't been included in last week's bit of bias, but I feel I must respond in behalf of all the musicians that took part in the parade and our growing county-wide music program as a whole. However, I will have the courtesy not to mention names in a negative manner.

There is a "highlight" in every parade for each spectator. One person's highlight need not be the same as another person's highlight. A newspaper reporter is a person like all of us, and his "highlight" is to be interpreted as freely as yours or mine. His choice in this year's parade was obviously the band. If his choice had been the streetcleaner that follows the parade it would have made no difference to me. Our part of the parade was presentable, the people enjoyed it and that's what really counts. It's obvious that the "Sounder" thought the Court should have been everyone's "highlight." Perhaps there was something lacking in their performance as she indicates there is in our band program.

### LETTERS

As far as attending the Pendleton parade in full dress: well, we don't have "full dress." We have blue jeans to go with out-dated, worn-out jackets and bent-up hats. We're trying desperately to raise the thousands of dollars needed to outfit our group so we can attend more events such as the Pendleton parade. In her letter last week, the "Sounder" made it seem as if it was because of me that we don't take a band to Pendleton. Most of the people know that it had been many years before I came here that Heppner had its last representative band in the parade. I guess it had been many years since we had a band in our own parade. At least we've accomplished something.

One thing that I don't like to do is to sound or be biased. There's too much of that going on without my adding to it. I think the whole parade was good. One group did not out-shine any other group. I have no bias toward the Queen and Court because of one person's anguish. I think they did a great job. I have no bias toward the person to whom this letter is directed. She has a personal interest in this year's court and her sincerity is appreciated.

Let's pat each other on the back for each person's contributions to all events in our county and not be prejudiced toward each other's "highlights." As someone said in a letter to the editor last week: "Kindness is an investment having no limit in dividends." Let's all follow those wise words.

Have a Nice Day,  
Jim Ackley

#### Kelpie revisited

Editor,  
I thought the handling of the "Kelpie" the pet coyote case, of Spray, Oregon, by the State Legislators and their cronies, like the State Police, the B.L.M., Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Commission and I'm sure there are several more of these bureaucratic miscarriages, running helter, skelter over every living thing in the State, was pretty "sickening."

Now reading the Oregonian, I find there is one that is equally as pitiful. I don't know who is responsible of these bureaucratic morons or moroffs operations, for it is hard to tell, because they all sleep in the same bed, and it's not a king size nor a queen size. I don't think it's even a regular size, but they manage. What I am referring to is the Mother Bear that was killed and her cubs scattered to the four winds. Whoever is responsible for this killing, should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, and receive the brass pot and the "Turkey Award" for wholesale stupidity, to send two ding-bats and a pack of bear-killing dogs to track a bear that a little poodle could have done, then to tranquilize the mother and while she is completely helpless, to turn these killer dogs on her to tear her to shreds. That must of been a pretty sickening demonstration in the eyes of her two cubs.

I see this maneuver equally as sickening as the "Kelpie" case and as far as I'm concerned the Oregon Legislators are guilty of this murder. If not, let me see them prosecute the ones that are guilty.

Otto H. Jorgensen, Jr.,  
P.O. Box 443  
Scappoose, Oregon 97056

**Big Job?**  
**Call for all your**  
**printing needs.**

676-9228

## THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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.

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

G.M. Reed, Publisher  
Dolores Reed, Co-publisher  
Terry M. Hager, Business Manager  
Jim Summers, Editor

Eileen Saling, Office Manager  
Justine Weatherford, Local News  
Laura Craig, Composing  
Patti Saling, Composing



### Shrug off the rain.

This waterproof Pacific Trail jacket lets your little guy shrug off the rain. The wind. And the snow. It's quilt-lined for warmth. With cozy pile hood and knit cuffs. Colorful shoulder trim. And Scotchlite® sleeve stripes that reflect lights after dark. Machine washable nylon.

**Gardner's**  
**MEN'S WEAR**  
Heppner 676-9218

## Building Blocks to a Better Future

Step by step. Block by block. A solidly based future needs the correct foundation. And we have seven of them. Not only do we offer a variety of programs, but as our chart indicates, the annual yield return is the best available. Take a look at the plans offered, and come in to see us about which one would best suit your needs. Helping you build a better future is why we're here.

KIND	MINIMUM	MATURITY	RATE	ANNUAL YIELD
Passbook	\$5.00	—	5.25%	5.39%
Certificate	\$1,000	3 Months	5.75%	5.92%
Certificate	\$1,000	1 Year	6.50%	6.72%
Certificate	\$1,000	2½ Years	6.75%	6.98%
Certificate	\$1,000	4 Years	7.50%	7.79%
Certificate	\$1,000	6 Years	7.75%	8.06%
Certificate	\$100,000	30 Days	Negotiable	—

Note: An interest penalty is charged for early withdrawal from certificate accounts



**First Federal Savings**

AND LOAN ASSOCIATION OF PENDELTON

Other Offices: Milton-Freewater,  
Hermiston, Boardman &  
Pendleton—Home Office

CENTER & MAIN—HEPPNER