

Old city laws could mean trouble for bean shooters, insomniacs, spitters

If you come to Heppner armed with a bean shooter, with plans to do some girl watching, don't spit on the sidewalk—you could be jailed for three criminal offenses.

Section 45 of Heppner's Ordinance 183 states that it is "unlawful for any person to discharge...any bean shooter, slingshot or similar weapon or device." Section 25 of the same ordinance makes it illegal for "any male person to ogle vulgarly" or "impertinently to attract or gain the attention of any female."

Section 37 of the same ordinance could make life miserable for town tobacco chewers, were it enforced to the limits of the law. It's okay to chew tobacco in Heppner, provided you're over 18 years old, but it's technically illegal to spit just about anywhere. According to Section 37, it is unlawful "to spit or expectorate upon any sidewalk, street, parking lot, on any building, or in any public place."

If you enjoy the daily "stargazing" columns that appear regularly in the Portland newspapers, you may be subject to discipline for breaking the town's occultism laws.

Under Section 38 of Ordinance 183, it is against the law to practice astrology, palmis-

try, fortune telling, phrenology, and mesmerism (hypnotism) within the city limits.

Thinking about putting up a pigsty in Heppner? Forget it. Section 63 states that "it shall be unlawful for any person to maintain a pigsty...within the corporate limits."

Insomniacs, take note: Section 8 of Ordinance 183 states that it is "unlawful to roam or wander about the streets at late or unusual hours of the night."

Planning to drive your chickens down Chase Street? That's another no-no. City laws make it illegal for residents to have any "fowls, horses, cattle, sheep, swine, goats, mules or asses" to roam on any city streets.

Another city ordinance still on the books makes it illegal to operate an opium den in Heppner, not that the Chamber of Commerce has been receiving many inquiries on the subject. The city was fairly lenient towards opium smokers around the turn of the century, when now-appealed ordinances provided for fines of only \$25 for possessors of the drug.

Heppner would not be an ideal place in which to stop during a honeymoon trip, since it remains technically

illegal to use hotel or motel rooms for, well, anything other than sleeping, even if a couple is married.

While the laws above remain on the books today, a number of other equally arcane, outdated, or unconstitutional city laws have already been repealed since the office of town marshal was created in Ordinance 1, signed into law on March 8, 1887.

The city is currently preparing to re-enact a revised code book, a process which would eliminate most of the outdated old laws. City Attorney Bill Kuhn has taken the scalpel to many of the archaic ordinances, and has sent an edited and revised list of city laws to a publishing firm for collation and publishing.

City council is expected to

adopt the revised laws in late September or early October. So, until then, lend your bean shooters to a relative in Ione.



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