

The Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
VIEWPOINT

Fair & Rodeo '79
underway Saturday

The 1979 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo really gets underway this Saturday with the coronation of Queen Debora Palmer and presentation of her court, Princesses Jennifer Wenzholz and Lori Edwards, and the running of the Second Annual Heppner Spring Lumberjack Show.

For those of you who missed the Lumberjack Show last year, you'll want to be at the Morrow County Fairgrounds at 1 p.m. this Saturday, April 21, to see both local contestants and world champions ply their skills at axe throwing, power saw cutting,

choker racing and more. A snack shack will be operating and a special traveling display in a 60-foot van depicting the "Great American Forests", which features a slide show and puppet show will be at the Fairgrounds.

In addition to the two major events, a stew and pie feed will be held in the Pavilion at 6 p.m. and old time fiddlers will play for the coronation and present a show and dance following.

Plan to set aside the yard work this Saturday and attend the full day of activity at the Fairgrounds.

Area's representation in
Congress questioned

Heppner residents should be concerned about their Congressional representation—especially that of Rep. Al Ullman.

For the past several decades and especially the last couple years a major effort has been underway locally and by Senator Mark Hatfield to obtain funding for construction of the Willow Creek Dam. The reason for the effort is Heppner's flood plain and what it does to the town in terms of development and growth.

Sen. Hatfield was successful in getting \$500,000 appropriated last year to begin the project, even though President Carter had not included Willow Creek Dam in his water projects list. That was quite an accomplishment and helped ensure continued funding.

Now Ullman has announced that he will not include the Willow Creek Dam in funding requests for the coming year. The Second District Congressman cited "local concern" over the proposed dam and "the need for a revised cost-benefit ratio" as reasons for not seeking funding.

We searched for a local official that had talked to Ullman in recent months and couldn't find one; evidently Ullman gleaned his information about "local concern" from newspapers carrying articles about the March 28 advisory vote on the WC Dam held by the city. The vote came out in favor of constructing the dam.

In regards to the need for a new cost-benefit study, millions of dollars have already been spent on studies—a practice common to bureaucrats—and a practice that runs up the cost of projects while waiting for the studies. The federal government and our Congressional delegations need to revise their procedures in that respect. Each year the process drags on, costs rise for the project and the cost-benefit ratio changes before their present

cost-benefit study is completed.

Heppner and Southern Morrow County need the Willow Creek Dam, a fact evidenced by a statement Chuck Steele, Federal Insurance Administration Region X Director made recently. Steele said he isn't an advocate of building dams—quite the reverse actually—but in Heppner's case he saw no other way for the town to survive economically with the natural 100-year flood plain.

Rep. Ullman's address appears on this page and we encourage all residents concerned about the future economic stability of Heppner to write or send a telegram to Mr. Ullman expressing their disappointment with his stand and urging him to push for funding of the dam.

We hope Rep. Ullman listens and trust that Oregon's Second District has not lost its representation as often happens when a congressman becomes a national figure—such as Rep. Ullman has as chairman of House, Ways and Means.

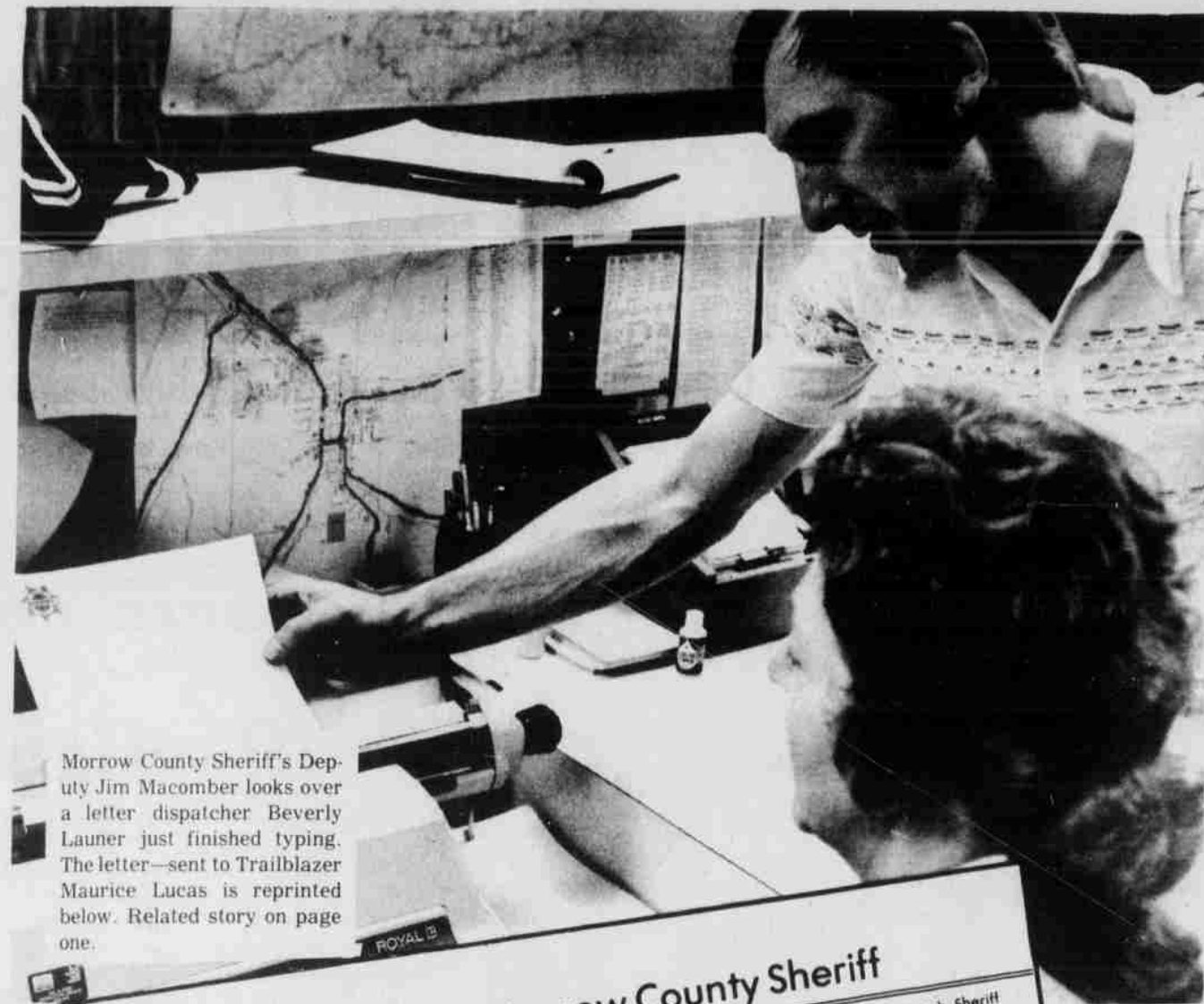
Execution by lethal
injection gets House Ok

By

Kathleen Glanville

SALEM—Oregon legislators with strong feelings against the death penalty faced a tough choice when they were asked to replace the gas chamber with a so-called humane alternative—lethal injection.

"I don't care if someone ingenious soul



Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy Jim Macomber looks over a letter dispatcher Beverly Launer just finished typing. The letter—sent to Trailblazer Maurice Lucas—is reprinted below. Related story on page one.

Morrow County Sheriff
L. D. Fetsch, Sheriff
P. O. Box 135
Heppner, Oregon 97535
Phone 676-9910

April 9, 1979

Mr. Maurice Lucas
c/o Portland Trailblazers Basketball Club
700 N.E. Multnomah Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97213

Dear Mr. Lucas, Our local Sheriff's Department will be playing a basketball game on April 20, 1979 to raise money to support a youth recreation program, during the summer months ahead.

As Coach, "Pro-Tem" of the Morrow County Mounties, I have been authorized by our President and General Manager, to make you a one game contract offer. As it stands right now, we have one opening on our team roster, and desperately need a strong forward.

I have been authorized to pay you \$5.00 for playing the game. I have also been authorized to provide you with the following:

- (A) Round trip transportation from Portland to Boardman aboard a luxurious Greyhound Motor Coach. (With on board restroom facilities)
- (B) Overnight accommodations at the Heppner Hotel. (Complete with Continental Breakfast)
- (C) Chauffered Limousine Service to and from the game. (Provided by our local John Deere Dealer)

I have taken the liberty to have our attorney draw up the contract, subject to your approval of course. We will be waiting to hear from you in the near future. Thankyou very much for your time.

Sincerely,
J. H. Macomber
James H. Macomber
Coach "Pro-Tem"
Morrow County Mounties

House debate on death penalty becomes an emotional issue

comes up with a way of beating a condemned man to death with a feather," said Rep. Jim Chrest, D-Portland. "My vote is going to be against the death penalty, period."

"I don't care how you do it. They're still dead and death is forever," he said.

But after almost an hour of debate last week and a warning from the bill's sponsor that a vote against the measure would be a vote for the gas chamber, the House voted 40-14 to pass House Bill 2592. The measure amends the ballot measure which reinstated the death penalty last November, by requiring execution by an intravenous injection of a lethal quantity of fast-acting barbiturate. Gov. Vic Atiyeh has said he would sign the bill if it passes the Senate.

"The subject of execution may be for some of us the most distasteful policy we will set this session," said Norm Smith, R-Tigard. "Nonetheless, the death penalty is a fact of life...and we must determine whether to be as human as possible to the condemned person and whether to save the enormous cost of construction of a gas chamber."

Three states have approved execution by lethal injection and three other states are considering it. Eighteen states execute by electrocution, 10 by cyanide gas, six by hanging and 12 have no death penalty.

Rep. Joyce Cohen, D-Lake Oswego, urged her fellow representatives to vote no on the measure, calling it another step in "becoming desensitized."

Rep. Rick Bauman, D-Portland, agreed. "I hope we can stop pretending we can administer the death penalty in a human way. It is not possible."

Rep. Tom Mason, D-Portland, said he refused to vote for anything to make the death penalty the slightest bit more attractive. "You can't kill with kindness," he said.

Smith said he thought the death penalty would see little use in Oregon. No one is on death row in Oregon, but there are two people being tried in Multnomah and Clackamas counties for murder under the death penalty.

Supporters of the bill argued that they didn't want the state to pay for a new gas chamber, estimated at more than \$300,000, when Oregonians might change their minds about the death penalty once again.

Voters first repealed capital punishment in 1914. It was brought back in 1920

only to be abolished again in 1964. Oregonians voted 2-1 to reinstate the death penalty last fall.

Before the death penalty was repealed in 1964, Oregon had executed 58 people—40 by hanging and the rest by cyanide gas.

Rep. Bill Rutherford, R-McMinnville, sponsored the lethal injection bill at the request of his secretary Wilma Hogle. He said he had his doubts about the measure because of his strong opposition to the death penalty, but he said anyone who had done study of comparative executions would agree lethal injection to be far more humane. He also said that changing the method of execution would not make Oregon judges more likely to sentence a convicted murderer to death.

"A no vote is a vote for the gas chamber...a more onerous method of execution," he added. The last person to be executed in Oregon was Leroy McGahuey who died in the gas chamber on Aug. 30, 1962.

Public Officials

U.S. Sen. Mark O. Hatfield

Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510. Member of Appropriations Committee, Interior Committee, Rules Committee and Indian Policy Review Commission. Portland office, Pioneer Courthouse, Rm. 167, 520 S.W. Morrison, Portland, Ore. 97204, phone 221-1346.

U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood

Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20541. Member of Finance Committee and Commerce Committee. Portland office, 1062 N.E. Holladay, Rm. 700, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Ore. 97208, phone 243-4471.

U.S. Rep. Al Ullman, Of The Second District

House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515. Member of Ways and Means Committee. Salem office, 330 Center St., Rm. 330, P.O. Box 247, Salem, Ore. 97308, phone 393-5274.

Gov. Vic Atiyeh

State Capitol, Salem, Ore. 97310, phone 378-3100.

State Sen. Ken Jernstedt

(Morrow, Gilliam and other counties), State Capitol, Rm. S317, Salem, Ore. 97310, phone 378-8850.

State Sen. Robert Smith

(Wheeler, Grant and other counties), State Capitol, Rm. S323, Salem, Ore. 97310, phone 378-8176.

State Rep. Bill Bellamy

(Morrow, Gilliam and other counties), State Capitol, Rm. H364, Salem, Ore. 97310, phone 378-8853.

State Rep. Max Simpson

(Wheeler, Grant and other counties), State Capitol, Rm. H481, Salem, Ore. 97310, phone 378-8789.

Persons wanting information on bills, hearings, and other doings of the Oregon Legislature may call, toll-free, 1-800-452-0290

Writer opposes Oregon handgun-vehicle bill

Editor:

All concerned Oregon gun owners need to take immediate action to stop the passage of Oregon House Bill 2423. This bill would make it illegal for any person to carry a pistol or revolver in any vehicle or conveyance without a concealed weapons permit. Passage of House Bill 2423 goes further to impose a mandatory \$1,000 fine or a year in the County jail.

House Bill 2423 would seriously infringe upon the right of law-abiding citizens to enjoy the shooting sports. Imagine, before a hunter or shooter could transport his weapon, a concealed weapons permit would

be needed. Honest gun owners in other states have faced many problems when applying for permits. This is a first step in Oregon that will lead to the same problems faced in other states. There is no way around it either. If this bill passes, you must either get a permit or face the consequences—a \$1,000 fine or a year in jail!

Immediate action is needed. Write your representative and Judiciary Committee and urge them to vote against H.B. 2423. It is only your effort that can stop H.B. 2423 from being made law.

Carl M. Marquardt
Lexington

Sifting
through
the TIMES

Two Lexington men were cited for their outstanding football achievements at Oregon State College 50 years ago this week.

The Gazette-Times carried a reprint of a story from Oregon State's alumni magazine for this month in 1929, which listed Lexington's Harvey "Pap Hayseed" McAllister and Dallas Ward among Oregon State's all-time great football players.

"Pap Hayseed", who was center for the Beavers, graduated in the class of 1897. Ward graduated in 1927.

Lyle Matteson of Heppner was nursing a set of cracked ribs suffered when he was kicked by a horse he was attempting to harness.

During the same week in 1929, Heppner's new city water reservoir was filled to the brim for the first time. The new tank held 310,000 gallons, requiring a full 24 hours to fill. "To a common layman," the Gazette-Times reported, "it has the appearance of being a very fine and substantial piece of work."

Thirty years ago this week, Morrow County voters approved by a 374-92 margin the school budget for the coming year. During the same week, a county-owned bulldozer broke ground at the construction site for the new Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Members of the Morrow County chapter of the Flying Farmers hosted a delegation from the Oregon Flying Farmers at Lexington airport during this week in 1949. About 75 farmer-aviators and their families attended the event. Meanwhile, Gene Kelly, Lana Turner and Keenan Wynn were among the stars appearing in "The Three Musketeers" at Heppner's Star Theater.

Twenty-five years ago this week, District Attorney Bradley Fancher was named Morrow County chairman of the re-election campaign for Oregon Governor Paul Patterson.

During the same week, Heppner City Council named patrolman George Reid the city's new police chief. Reid, who had served as the night duty officer for the city, took the place of former chief Roscoe Kelley, who was then seeking the office of Umatilla County commissioner.

Ten years ago this week, Father Dirk Rinehart, rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church, announced that he planned to leave Heppner to assume duties as associate rector of the Church of the Redeemer in Pendleton. Fr. Rinehart had served three years at the Heppner church.

During the same week in 1969, a blinding dust storm along Butter Creek on the Heppner-Hermiston highway resulted in a five-vehicle pileup involving several Morrow County residents. Among those involved in the crash were Bill Johnson and Phil Doherty of Heppner and Sandy Matheny of Heppner, who, along with Diane Cutsforth, Janet McCurdy and Delbert McLachlan, were returning from a church meeting in Pendleton.

No one was seriously injured in the crash.



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