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GAZETTE-TIMES
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Partisan Choice ?

Whoever assumes the role of County Judge of Morrow County will take on judicial as well as administrative responsibilities.

This is one of the few remaining counties in Oregon where the chief executive officer presides over the Juvenile Court. In the two years that County Judge D.O. Nelson has served, the case load has increased, from approximately 50 referrals in 1977 to 256 referrals in 1978, and better than 150 so far this year.

In these statistics, "referrals" means the number of cases handled by the county juvenile officer, referred by police, school authorities, concerned parents or citizens.

During 1978, 86 of the juvenile cases came before the County Judge for disposition. In some cases, it was his duty to sentence the offenders to terms in the MacLaren School for Boys at Woodburn or the Hillcrest School for Girls at Salem.

More frequently than in the past, Judge Nelson says, juveniles appearing in his court are represented by attorneys.

In some ways, he believes, the effectiveness of the court loses something when attorneys become involved. In the adversary process the judge is less free to use his common-sense wisdom and more bound to apply the strict letter of the law, often against the children of neighbors whom he has known for years.

The new County Judge, who will succeed Judge Nelson when the latter's resignation takes effect Oct. 15, should take a look at the Juvenile Court and its problems and decide whether to retain jurisdiction. In most other Oregon counties, the Juvenile Court comes under the direction of the Circuit Court.

"The reason I kept it," Judge Nelson explains, "is that I love kids, and if I could help only one it would be worth it."

While a legal background is not required, it might be beneficial to anyone serving as judge. In any case, the assistance of the district attorney, other attorneys and the juvenile officers may always be summoned.

The majority of the County Judge's time is spent with the two commissioners in administering a spending budget of almost \$4 million, about 40 percent of which is raised through local property taxes in Morrow County.

Together, the three officials make up the County Court.

They are concerned with roads, the hospital, the annual fair, planning and zoning, and currently with flood control and the effects of the proposed Willow Creek dam.

Judge Nelson is a Democrat. His two colleagues on the court are Republicans.

By law, Gov. Vic Atiyeh must appoint a Democrat to succeed Judge Nelson but is not necessarily bound to accept the nomination of the Morrow County Democratic Central Committee. (The committee will hold a public meeting tonight, Thursday, at the courthouse to hear from and consider those who might aspire to the position.)

Judge Nelson came to the judgeship through appointment, which was followed by his election to a six-year term in 1978. Besides farming in Morrow County, he had a background of service as president of the Morrow County Grain Growers Association for a number of years, chairman of the school board and a member of the county budget committee.

In comparison to positions of similar responsibility in public or private life, the judge's salary is relatively low—\$17,028 in the current budget.

It is expected that the Democrats will nominate someone with appropriate experience for the job. It is too bad that the choice should be limited to the Democrats.

In an area as thinly populated as Morrow County, where officials are known personally to most of the constituents, the partisan nomination seems to unnecessarily narrow the selection. In this case, why should the judge be labeled either as a Democrat or Republican? The job should go to the best person, regardless of party affiliation.

Rep. Bill Bellamy files for new term in Salem

Representative Bill Bellamy, Culver, filed for re-election to a second term as state representative from District 55, the Secretary of State's office reported this week.

Bellamy represents Morrow County along with Gilliam County and Central Oregon. He is a republican. The election is planned for May 20.

Sifting through the TIMES

1929
Fifty years ago Adam Knoblock, a government trapper, reported that a bear tore up his camp on Swale creek and chased him. "He was as big as a mountain," he said. Governor Patterson announced the opening of hunting season for both birds and deer. There has been a large influx of people coming to Heppner territory besides the usual number of local people. A common sight these days is to see a car pull into town with a deer or two tied on behind or loaded in the tonneau. County school superintendent Lucy E. Rodgers was putting the Morrow County

teachers through an intensive schooling session. It was the annual teacher's institute. Glen P. White became the new pastor at the Methodist church in Heppner. White had commuted from his base church in Fossil to Heppner on church days. District attorney Notson of Morrow County left for Memphis, Tenn. to attend a national convention for all the state attorney generals. Notson was one of two district attorneys in Oregon to be chosen by Oregon attorney general Van Winkle to go to the conference with him. Chas. W. Smith, county agent, was installed as com-

mander of the Heppner American Legion. More than 3,500 spectators were on hand for the Heppner Rodeo. Turk Greenough won the bucking competition, which was one of the outstanding events in the entire rodeo. Eddie Woods won the calf roping in 37 seconds. Phil Cooper won the bull dogging with a time of 41 seconds. 1954
Twenty five years ago Delbert Emert, of Ione, was chosen County Cattleman of the Year. Frank Anderson sold his grand champion heifer for \$600 and his reserve champion for \$500. He consigned a thrid

heifer for \$540 and he also consigned two bulls which sold for \$750 and \$740. Children were excused from school to attend the "Peter Rabbit Show" which was sponsored by the P.T.A. Stage performers, singers and dancers from New York and Hollywood put on the play. Chamber of Commerce members voted 32-6 in favor of putting in a Heppner city park. Elsie's Cafe was sold to the Loyd Moyer family. Captain and Mrs. W.H. Wolf, a Heppner physician, had twin girls. Shelley Margaret weighed five pounds, 12 ounces and Kelley Marie

weighed five pounds and 13 ounces. Deer hunting was successful. Four arrests had been made for failure to tag deer or failing to tag them properly. 1974
Five years ago Karen Richards of Irrigon won a trip to Chicago to attend the National 4-H Congress. She was named winner of the trip, which was sponsored by the Moorman Manufacturing Co., for her outstanding work in the 4-H



Salem Scene

By Jack Zimmerman

More than a year in advance of final balloting, it appears safe to say the 1980 elections will be memorable for Oregonians.

And in addition to determining the outcome of those elections, an unprecedented number of registered voters likely will play a part in determining the issues to be decided at the polls.

A record number of initiative petitions—43 by most recent count—have been filed in the office of Secretary of State Norma Paulus. Oregon's chief elections officer.

These initiatives are the device by which ordinary citizens can solicit registered voters to place proposals for changes in law or constitutional provisions on the general election ballot. That 43 such proposals have been filed probably reflects both dissatisfaction and frustration

with government on the parts of an inordinate number of people. Whether initiatives to change state laws and constitutional provisions are the best way to ease the frustration and achieve satisfaction may be debatable.

From the looks of many of the petitions currently on file, it's difficult to tell whether petitioners are upset with federal or state government. One strongly suspects they have given up hope of influencing what happens in Washington, D.C., and hope to send a message to the nation's capitol by way of Salem.

Greg McMurdo, assistant to the Secretary of State, figures the odds are good at least 10 of the 43 petitions filed so far will achieve ballot status. Those that do succeed will find their proponents collecting 54,669 signatures of registered voters for statutory changes and

Initiative action unprecedented for Oregon

72,891 signatures for initiatives proposing constitutional changes.

And that means a million or more Oregonians will be signing initiative petitions between now and the deadline on July 3, 1980.

And McMurdo thinks that's entirely possible. After all, didn't something like 200,000 people sign up in 1978 to achieve ballot status for Measure No. 6—designed to limit property taxes drastically?

That proposition failed at the polls. But the fact that same idea and others likely will face voters again in 1980 probably indicates more than lingering distrust of lawmakers, who offered voters an alternative which also failed in '78 and the tax relief package that emerged from this year's session of the State Legislature.

Initiatives attacking nuclear power generation runs a close second to tax issues being proposed. And given the emotional appeal of that type of proposal, it seems likely one or more also will come before voters next year.

Other petitions for which signatures may be solicited range from those dealing with abortion, service charges for overdrawn checking accounts and sales of liquor to the visibly intoxicated—all the way to adjust pay for Legislators, resurrecting the Mt. Hood Freeway and prohibiting the trapping of animals by leg snares.

When one considers a public mood that prompted filing of these proposals and others—to say nothing about the sizeable number filed—it appears foolhardy to predict none will get on the ballot.

McMurdo and many other close to the scene in Salem figure as many as three tax proposals could be on next year's November ballot. And tax plans won't necessarily be compatible. What happens if more than one incompatible tax plan is approved by voters?

The Legislature also has placed by referendum its own tax plan on next May's primary election ballot. What if that plan is approved in May and an incompatible initiative proposal also is approved in November?

The possibilities are interesting to say the least.

No one expects petition carriers to be circulating all 43 presently filed proposals door-to-door between now and next July. Many of that number will be abandoned by their proponents. Some already have.

Some petitions are filed each year simply to bring an issue into the open, as a token protest or to gain publicity for its proponent.

Achieving enough signatures to get most proposals on the ballot is both difficult and expensive. Only a few proponents can afford the time and money involved—or attract sufficient numbers of volunteers to collect the required John and Jane Henrys.

Even when the money is available—and the necessary volunteers to solicit signers—the issue has to be one with almost overwhelming public acclaim or emotional appeal.

It is largely on the basis of the latter condition, the public's emotional attitude, that prompts a forecast that as many as 10 initiatives will achieve ballot status next year.

And that should be warning enough to every registered voter that petitions should be read and the pros and cons of each proposal thoroughly understood before signing. Such a warning probably falls on deaf ears when emotions rule reason.

After all, how many voters go to the polls with a full understanding of the results their ballot can produce?

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Hatfield needs to hear from wilderness users

Editor: Senator Mark Hatfield needs to get letters from people who use the wilderness this week. The situation is this: Senator Hatfield had scheduled a hearing in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 27 to listen to testimony from national organizations on the future of Oregon wilderness.

If Oregon Wilderness is to be saved, it must be saved by people—the citizens—not the governor or the Forest Service. There's too much money and influence floating around to leave wilderness up to agencies and elected officials.

Letter writers might remember that Oregon has lost almost more forested wilderness than any other western state. Of Oregon's 30 million acres of forest, 25 million acres have already been entered and logged. Only 1.2 million acres, primarily in rock and ice, have classified as wilderness. Governor Atiyeh only wanted to add 61,000 acres to the wilderness system in Oregon. The Forest Service only wanted to add 370,000 acres. There are 3,000,000 acres left of undisturbed wildland. These last 3,000,000 acres represent only 10 percent of the forest in Oregon.

It's time to sharpen up your pencil, folks. Even if you don't use wilderness, it is important to know that people in this generation were wise enough not to cut down everything for export to Japan. Urge Senator Hatfield to include three million acres of wilderness in his supposedly final wilderness bill for Oregon. Let's keep at least 10 percent of the wild country wild—for elk, deer, salmon, shade and our own health.

In particular, letter writers might remember to mention specific support for wilderness in the Blue Mountains, including the following areas:

Wilderness Proposal	Acres	Support Group
Bridge Creek	17,300	Central Oregon Cons.
Ochoco Canyons	57,540	Central Oregon Cons.
Murderers Creek	38,200	Grant County Conser
Silver Creek-Myrtle	30,140	
Strawberry Mountain		
Wilderness Additions		
Glacier Mt.-Monument Rock	47,900	Strawberry Mts. For.
Baldy Mt.	51,533	Grant County Conser.
Malheur Buttes	6,728	People for the Malheur
North Fork John Day	33,500	People for the Malheur
Wapiti Wilderness	400,000	Blue Mt. Resources Al
Hellhole Wilderness	48,992	Elk Foundation Assn
North Fork Umatilla	86,942	Issac Walton League
Chief Lookingglass	29,942	Issac Walton League
Grande Ronde Canyon	21,800	Blue Mt. Res. Alliance
Joseph Canyon	27,000	Outdoor Prog.-EOSC
Eagle Cap Additions	34,000	Winding Waters-meow
Lower Minam Additions	119,000	Winding Waters-I.W.L.
	55,000	President Carter et al

—George Venn
Route 2, Box 2499
La Grande, Ore. 97850

Tax plan ready for mailing

Sept. 24, 1979

Editor: I want your readers to know that the Tax Vote Committee has the "Applegate-Moser" income tax cut initiative ready for mail out. This change of the Oregon Constitution will cut back each worker's state income tax to half their 1978 rate and limit any future increases to the state inflation. No rebate scheme can ever compete with this honest cut in what the state can take away from each and every worker. This means real tax relief for the first time since income tax was invented. We must obtain over 100 thousand signatures from the people to qualify this measure for the fall ballot. Any voter who writes to the Tax Vote Committee will receive a copy of our petition. Those who care to donate towards our costs can expect to receive their petition first.

—Alva Moser
Political Treasurer
Tax Vote Committee
P.O. Box 733
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

Young man's kind deed appreciated

Editor: To whom it may concern: We would like to express our appreciation to the young man who gave aid to our mother when she fell on the street in Ione on Sunday, Sept. 23. These kind deeds are so often overlooked in these days.

Jo Irvin
Pai Cool
Delpha Jones

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