

The Official Newspaper of the  
City of Heppner and the  
County of Morrow

**The Heppner  
GAZETTE-TIMES**  
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper  
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**ANOTHER VIEWPOINT**

**Car crisis in Education**

Laugh if you like, cry if you like, doubt if you like; but it is an indisputable fact that education would be far better off if the automobile had never been invented.

There are approximately 110,000,000 automobiles in the United States (this does not include trucks and buses); and surely high school and junior college administrators must feel, many times, that more than half of them are in school parking lots.

Why are automobiles bad for education? There isn't enough room in this editorial to list all the reasons and the why's.

But as a starter: except, perhaps, for television, probably nothing distracts and diminishes learning more than student cars.

When they are not spending their time in cars and this could be a whole book in itself, they are expending time, energy and dollars in the purchase of a car or the upkeep of a car.

Millions of cars are used for business and professional purposes or family errands of one type or another (both necessary and unnecessary); but kiddy cars are used primarily for fun and frolic.

True, not many parents are going to go on record against fun and frolic, but today that fun and frolic (in cars) is (1) terribly expensive in dollars; (2) terribly wasteful, from the standpoint of energy consumption; and (3) a costly distraction, if not an outright deterrent to learning.

If, however, you are bored with learning, and not too concerned with environmental conditions that may distract students from academic pursuits, you may be a little more concerned about life and death.

Each year there are normally (or abnormally, depending upon your point of view) 45 to 55,000 fatalities (about one-half involving young people) due to motor vehicle accidents. Since a sizable percentage of these are teenagers, we might conclude that automobiles are injurious to teenage health—if not to their learning.

If we set fatalities aside and simply examine motor vehicle accidents, in general, there are 15,800,000 of these each year, in which, again, teenagers play a vital role.

It is true that fun and frolic occurred in the horse and buggy days, too; but "escape" was somewhat more difficult then.

Whether you look upon the teenager and the car as a tragedy or a comedy, it is a severe headache to school administrators, throughout the country—and a seriously disruptive force in education.

Reprinted from "Western Views"

Educational Research Associates

A nonprofit educational research corporation

**Biggest Business**

by Ed Curran

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agriculture today isn't simply big business, it's America's biggest business. Its assets exceed \$800 billion. That's about 75 percent the assets of all manufacturing corporations in the nation. It also employs more workers than the nation's transportation, auto and steel industries combined.

Last year, the cash receipts from farm marketings—the money farmers received for the livestock and the crops sold from their farms—totaled a record \$110 billion. That's up from a previous high of \$96 billion in 1977, more than double the total of 1970.

**Sifting through the TIMES**

1929

Fifty years ago Geo N. Peck of Lexington explained to the Lions Club in Heppner that if the freight rate of a bushel of wheat was dropped by only four cents, farmers in Morrow County could pocket an additional \$60,000 annually. The Eastern Oregon Wheat League and other farm organizations were fighting to lower the freight rate.

The Heppner grammar school put on a musical play about a story that is not often thought of as a musical. The students sang the story of Rip Van Winkle.

Heppner High School defeated Hermiston 21-6 in the Armistice Day game.

David G. Glass spoke at the Armistice Day program in Heppner in front of a very large crowd. He made a strong plea for universal peace. He was the substitute speaker for Dr. D.V. Plouing, who was injured in an automobile accident and could not make it.

A rodent control meeting was held in Heppner. County agent C.W. Smith was in charge with the help of Ira N. Gabrielson, state rodent control leader from Oregon State

College. Smith said the county is becoming infested with rats and the meetings showed interested persons what to do to control the rats and other rodents.

The boys' and girls' glee clubs at Heppner High School gave free performances to the public. For many years, spectators were asked to pay to go to school performances but Jas. M. Burgess, school superintendent, said that was not fair.

A big carnival and dance was planned to be held Nov. 22 at Lexington High School. The Heppner Black Cats, the band that plays the peppiest and best music in the country and makes the old young again, was scheduled to perform at the big carnival.

The state game commission said it had arrested 69 more persons the past year than the year before which will add \$4,000 more money to the fund than the previous year.

1954

Twenty-five years ago the residents of Ione were hit with the TV bug as A.E. Stefani and Noel Dobyns set up a test set on a hill just east of the town. A tent was set up with a TV receiver inside and every

night 50 to 75 persons crowded into the tent to watch TV. The reception was reported as being good.

Parents of band members sold \$110 worth of food on election day and they planned a candy sale for the middle of December and a carnival for Jan 15 to make money for the band.

Sarah McNamera donated \$1,000 to Heppner High School to set up a student loan fund to aid junior and senior college students who have graduated from the school. A stipulation for the donation was that the PTA match the donation.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital had an addition to the building. A new wing was built at the north end to match the one on the south. New bedrooms, a health center and an office for the county health nurse were planned to be put in the new wing.

1974

Five years ago the committee that was looking for a doctor to come to Heppner hit a snag when all seven doctors who showed an interest still had anywhere from one to three years left in training before they could begin practice.

Some of the families at the Episcopal Church decided to cook their Turkey Day birds at the parish hall and they invited all lonely persons in the community to come to dinner. "Don't Eat Alone," come join us the church members said.

The Kinzua Corp. re-opened after being shut down for a month because of boiler problems.

James Ronald Stipe was fined and put in jail for shooting a cow owned by Terry Thompson. He was fined \$605, spent five days in jail, had his hunting rights suspended for three years and agreed to pay the owner of the cow \$200.

Ken Belcher, manager of the First National Bank in Heppner, was named chairman of the Morrow County Rodeo Board.

Bruce Young was the Gazette-Times mystery person and 200 persons identified him correctly. Mrs. Lewis Halverson won the prize when her name was drawn from the 200 entries.

Van Rietmann of Ione was elected board president of the Columbia Basin Electrical Cooperative.



Legislative Report from the State Capital EXCLUSIVE to Oregon's Weekly Newspapers from Associated Oregon Industries.

**Salem Scene**

**Workers comp in the news again**

By Jack Zimmerman  
Workers' Compensation Insurance is making news in Salem again.

The system by which Oregon administers care and compensation for injured workers is a major source of news emanating from the Capitol during regular biennial sessions of the State Legislature. And now it appears Workers' Comp will be just as important from a news standpoint during the non-legislative year to come.

The reason is basically the same that brings the issue to prominence during each legislative session—staggering increases in program cost.

Premiums for Workers' Compensation Insurance cost Oregon employers \$74 million in 1968. Total cost of those premiums doubled in 1972, doubled again by 1976 and exceeded an overwhelming half-billion dollars in 1978. Premiums this year are expected to approach the \$600 million mark!

The increases have earned Oregon the distinction of being the highest Workers' Comp cost state in the nation. And considering premiums are wholly paid by employers and thus become a cost of doing business, one begins to understand why the issue is attracting constant attention.

**Costs Rising**  
Successive sessions of the legislature have tackled the problem with less than effective success. Costs continue to escalate.

Repeated studies indicate those costs are largely the result of liberal judicial interpretations of existing state law and the expense of medical treatment. For the most part, legislative action appears the only solution.

Lawmakers in 1977 for instance, succeeded in streamlining the appeal procedure for Workers' Comp cases by eliminating appellate action in circuit courts. But any savings gained by eliminating that costly court procedure were lost to inflation and constantly rising costs of medical care.

Lawmakers in 1977 also made major changes in the system designed to separate administrative and appellate responsibilities. A Workers' Compensation Department was created to administer the program and the Workers' Comp Board was to function as an appeals body.

The legislature earlier this year enacted another statute aimed ostensibly at providing uniformity in the appeals process for disability cases. And rules arising from that law are causing the current controversy.

**Claims Procedure**

Under the present system involving disability cases, an injured worker's disabling claim is established first by his doctor and referred to the Workers' Compensation Department's Evaluation Division. If the worker is not satisfied with the Evaluation Division's decision, he can appeal to the Workers' Comp Board's Hearings Division. A hearing referee examines the claim and may affirm Evaluation's decision, reduce it or raise it.

If the worker still is not satisfied, he may appeal to the WC Board itself and again—if not satisfied—the Oregon

Court of Appeals and sometimes to the Supreme Court.

A study of disposition of disability cases last year revealed that some 48 percent of Evaluation's decisions were being appealed and that the Hearings Division was increasing the amount of award in 72.9 percent of cases appealed.

Consequently, Director Roy Green of the Workers' Compensation Department—acting in accordance with authority he believes was established by the 1979 law—has proposed new rules to provide uniformity at all steps of the appeals process.

**Setting Guidelines**

They are aimed at providing the same guidelines for establishing disability of unscheduled injuries—mainly hurts of head, neck, back and trunk—for use by the Evaluations and Hearing Division.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Hoo-ray for Meg Murray, she's right on education**

Editor:  
Hoo-ray for Meg Murray. I agree, our children should be given the opportunity to choose the best education offered.

If Ione is giving less to their students, it turns into an unfair situation for them.

We live on the very end of Morrow County. My children could go to Echo or Heppner for their education. They are attending the Heppner schools because they knew Heppner offered a better education.

I think this is the same

situation that the school systems are having in all small, isolated counties.

All students should be able to attend the school that gives them the best education.

Hermiston now has a private school for those who felt their children were not receiving a fair "education" in Echo. The waiting list is getting longer every month. Can this happen in Morrow County?

Dorothy Hawkins,  
Star Route  
Echo, Ore. 97826

**Tax Measure six alive, well, going to voters in November 1980**

Editor:  
Attention all dissatisfied tax payers. The successor to Measure 6 is alive and well and on its way to submission to the voters in November 1980. Now that the tax statements are out, it should be obvious that the legislature never seriously intended an overall reduction of property taxes.

The only answer is to place a one percent limit on property taxes in the constitution where the legislature can't tinker

with it.  
Want to help?? Can you carry a petition?? Your support is needed to make the 1 percent limit the law. Your support, moral, physical and financial is necessary to bypass a legislature that no longer listens.

Write Oregonians for Tax Relief, P.O. Box 24, North Bend, OR 97459, Orvin C. Stanwood, Chairman.

Orvin C. Stanwood  
264 Pierce Point Road  
North Bend, Ore. 97459

**Fish and Wildlife Comm. meeting**

The Fish and Wildlife Commission will conduct a general business meeting beginning at 9 a.m. Nov. 16, at Fish and

Wildlife Department headquarters, 506 S.W. Mill Street in Portland.

**Business Directory**

**Auto Parts**

**Heppner Auto Parts**  
234 N. Main Heppner 676-9123

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