

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

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Jerome F. Sheldon, Publisher
Steven A. Powell, News & Sports Editor

A Good Picture, but...

Once again Pacific Northwest Bell has distributed its new telephone directory, and would it be too parochial to wonder why a book for eastern Oregon could not have had an appropriate scene from this region on its cover? The color photo on the 1980 directory for Morrow and Umatilla counties shows the Yaquina Head lighthouse near Newport on the Oregon coast.

The photograph was taken by Chuck Forinash, 21-year-old student at Portland Community College, where he is studying photography and journalism. Among 500 entries submitted, his picture was one of 10 finalists in the First Directory Cover Photo Competition held by the telephone company. It is a beautiful picture, well composed, no doubt about it.

But shouldn't telephone books have covers that identify them pictorially with the communities they serve?

For instance, a Morrow County cover might well show off the historic courthouse in Heppner with its facade of native-quarried stone and classic clock tower. Golden fields of grain or corrals filled with livestock might also be suitable subjects for a regional directory.

Admitting this touch of provincialism, we still congratulate "Ma Bell" for holding a contest. Pictorial covers, no matter the subject, are more interesting than the plain gray or green jackets that once covered most telephone books. Now—if they could only do something about the fine print inside.

A Judge's Objection

The following letter, penned by Wheeler County Judge Andrew F. Leckie, appeared in last week's issue of the *Cannon Times-Journal*. It was written in response to a survey circulated by an organization called the Tri-County Health Planning Committee, asking for the opinions of Gilliam, Wheeler and Morrow county residents regarding health care offered by Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

Judge Leckie, whose name was included as a member, is mistaken in identifying the sponsors of the survey as a "commission," which would imply governmental authority. The letter mailed over the signature of A.K. Felt, hospital administrator, calls the group an advisory or planning committee. Judge Leckie's letter is addressed to Mr. Felt.

Mr. A.K. Felt, Administrator
Pioneer Memorial Hospital
Heppner, OR 97536

Dear Mr. Felt:

The "survey" of health care needs for Wheeler, Gilliam and Morrow counties recently received is an outrageously presumptuous piece of propaganda. The name "survey" is a poor disguise for a pamphlet which blatantly is seeking Wheeler tax dollars to support the Heppner Hospital.

Furthermore, I also object to the name the group is using. The Tri-County Health Commission, which is formed of the three county courts plus additional citizens, has existed since at least 1969 and has served the three counties well as a body which has helped each of the counties toward the attainment of its particular health goals. How dare this new group adopt the name. Judge Barnett of Gilliam County is the current president of the Tri-County Health Commission.

Planning to meet the health care, or any other, needs of Wheeler County residents is a function to be performed by Wheeler County residents and not some outside committee. When asked to serve on the advisory committee, I agreed to do so because of the feeling of mutual helpfulness and cooperation that has existed for many years between the three counties. My serving on the committee in no way implied the relinquishing of Wheeler County residents' right of self-determination. As a matter of fact, when Mr. Bob Burns, the former Pioneer Hospital administrator, and Mr. Fred Martin, president of the Pioneer Hospital board, came to Fossil about eighteen months ago to talk about the possibility of a Hospital District to include Wheeler County and for the support of Pioneer Memorial Hospital, I told them that I was sympathetic with their problem of getting funds for the hospital, but that they should not look toward Wheeler County for help or involvement. I, further, told them that I personally would oppose such a district because the patterns of usage for Wheeler County residents did not include Heppner to a sufficient degree to warrant our support with the peoples' tax dollars.

In closing, let me say that you may be assured of my continued active opposition to the formation of a Hospital District wishing to include Wheeler County.

Please remove my name from your list of committee members.
Sincerely,
Andrew F. Leckie
Wheeler County Judge

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Anthony \$1 Another Postal Problem

With a host of problems facing the U.S. government, ranging from draft registration for men and the parallel problem for women to the crisis in Iran and Afghanistan, why do the leaders of this country insist on continuing to promote a losing proposition...the Susan B. Anthony dollar?

Now the government has decided to force the two-bit sized coin into general circulation through its network of post offices. Initially the effort was made through more conventional outlets but the public reaction was very negative and the private banking and business sector went back to conventional currency.

But, alas, the poor of much maligned post office has been dragged into the marketing battle for the Susan B. Anthony sandwich silver dollar. The post office has enough problems keeping its head above water without being given the ridiculous task of doing out dollars that generate little but ill will among recipients.

There are a couple of ways the government can still secure favorable reaction for the Susan B. Anthony coin. One way would be to quit making them entirely...creating a new collectors' item.

A second way would be to release them in certain "test markets" only and give the silly little reminder of the inflated value of the dollar a certain "snob appeal." For instance making Susan B. Anthony coins available only at the Beverly Hills post office or only in Hawaii thereby letting those with such dollars spread them about the country as a means of bragging about their latest trips.

Of course, the government still has a couple of marketing tricks available that smack of high handedness. One such trick will be the systematic removal of the dollar bill from circulation forcing reliance on two previously unpopular money items—the Susan B. Anthony coin and the two-dollar bill.

A second high-handed trick will be for the government to continue spending its way to great and greater levels of inflation and forcing all the country's vending machines to have slots for Susan B's head to roll down. People will have to use these coins because the quarter candy bar will have gone the way of the nickel candy bar if inflation continues through the '80s.

—Polk County Itemizer-Observer
Dallas, Oregon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'State Forestry not giving us a fair shake'

Editor:

We are concerned as to why people trying to do an honest day's work can not get a fair shake from some governmental agencies which our tax dollars pay for. Our concern deals with the State Forestry Department in Fossil.

We are private contractors and were doing a thinning contract for a private rancher from Mitchell, which the State Forestry in Fossil administered. The state was responsible for designating the area, the specifications of the operation, follow-up inspections, and final approval.

Our first concern is that we feel the area should not have been pre-commercially thinned. Then once we had a good start on the operation we had to call the state to see if they could come out and inspect: this was done and we based the rest of our work on what we were told. Thirdly, when we were almost done we again called to have them come out for an inspection and also because we felt there was a discrepancy in the acreage of one of the two areas. We were now told that the area would not pass, and after they checked the acreage they told us there was no mistake. We then re-worked the area to their specifications, but we still felt there was a mistake in the acreage of the one area. So when the state made the final inspection they checked the area once again and then found that they had made a mistake and we resolved the problem.

Finally, when we received payment from the rancher for our work, we were paid for the original amount of acreage. So when we questioned him he told us the state had informed him of the mistake on the one area in question, but then they told him they had also made another mistake on the other area and it was considerably less than had been originally thought. When the state found their mistakes they miracu-

lously happened to balance each other, and they did not take the time to inform us.

All we wanted was some straight answers and a fair shake, not the run around and problems we encountered.

Respectfully,
Walt Kight,
Box 237
Canyon City, Oregon
Mitch Mund,
John Day, Oregon

'Unpleasant experience at Jamboree'

Editor:

I would like to use this newspaper column to share with readers an unpleasant experience that occurred at the Junior High basketball Jamboree held at the Heppner Junior High Gym on Feb. 16, 1980. This experience was shared by my wife, my youngest son, and myself. Based on observations of and/or conversations with other people attending this activity I am sure their experience was as bad or worse than that of my family and myself.

We attended this activity to support our son or brother participating with the Heppner Junior High team. We went to view and support basketball competition with teams from neighboring towns, as did most people attending. Interfering with our enjoyment of the basketball competition was the rude, rowdy, and ill-mannered behavior of local unsupervised children. I am not describing activities of children using their energy supporting basketball or school spirit. I am describing unnecessary running about, scuffling and horseplay, and throwing of debris exhibiting an obvious lack of interest in basketball and a lack of concern for the rights of other spectators. I question why children who obviously have no interest in viewing or supporting school activities but are only interested in engaging in their own distracting and sometimes destructive side activities are allowed to remain on public premises.

I would like to offer my apology to the visiting teams and fans who traveled to Heppner to enjoy basketball competition and were treated to less than full enjoyment. I make this apology recognizing my lack of past involvement in demanding more enforcement of discipline in the school system.

I do not want to give the impression that the whole Jamboree was a negative experience. I would like to commend the teachers participating in extracurricular activities and offer my support for future activities.

Donald N. Kenison
Box 547
Heppner

'Tri County Committee says thank you'

Editor:

The Tri County health planning committee wishes to thank the people who took the time to fill in and mail the questionnaire recently distributed in Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler Counties.

A lot of time, effort and expense has gone into developing this public survey. It's very important that a large part of them are returned. The responses will have a definite effect on the recommendations made by the Committee and will ultimately effect the level of care offered to the Tri County people.

If you haven't responded, please do, if you don't have a questionnaire extra copies are available at the hospital.

A.K. Felt
Administrator,
Pioneer Memorial Hospital
Heppner

Sifting through the TIMES

1930
Fifty years ago more than 250 Odd Fellows from Umatilla and Morrow Counties attended the 16th annual convention of the order in Heppner.

The Hermiston debate team won both debates from Heppner High School. More than 300 persons attended the Elks annual Washington's Birthday celebration in Heppner. Pat's Six Aces from The Dalles entertained.

Members of the Lexington Grange practiced the play "Cyclone Sally."

Seven high school basketball teams were signed up to compete in the district basketball tournament in Heppner. Umatilla, Heppner, Ione, Arlington, Fossil, Lexington, and Boardman were scheduled to compete. The top three teams would go to the district tournament in Pendleton against the three top teams of the other district consisting of Adams, Stanfield, Hermiston, Helix, Echo, Athena and Weston. Cost for the entire tournament was \$1.

1935
Twenty five years ago winds up to 75 miles per hour hit Morrow County and caused considerable losses. Sheds were demolished, antennas blown over, trees knocked down, power poles dropped, the flag pole at the Lexington school was blown into the school, and soil erosion was said to be the greatest loss.

Central Market was sold by Sara McNamer to Ed Bennett and C.E. McQuarrie.

Dr. Harold S. Huber, a dentist, opened his dentist office in Heppner after moving his practice to Stanfield for two years.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital manager Jack Angel announced that the Heppner Elks Lodge donated a check for \$1,332 to help pay for equipment needed for the new, four-bed children's wing at the hospital.

Eight schools entered the Heppner grade school double elimination basketball tournament with a cost of \$1.50 for

the entire tourney. In celebration of 25 years as an organization, the Morrow County Grain Growers announced a plan for payment of growers certificates.

The Star Theater in Heppner was charging an admission price of 70 cents to see movies like John Wayne in the "Reap of Wild Wind," Dale Robertson in "Sitting Bull" and Gregory Peck in "Man With a Million."

Charles Tolbert of Boardman took the grand prize in the steelhead fishing derby with a catch of 20 pounds and six ounces. He won a \$35 spinning reel for winning the six-month derby.

Frank Anderson of Heppner raised the top female at the Hereford Blue Tag show.

Lance Tibbles came off the bench to lead Heppner to a 61-24 stomping of the Wasco Braves scoring 11 points. Heppner led 20-0 in the first quarter of play so substitutes got to see a lot of playing time.

Heppner basketball team was advancing to the District 1975

Five years ago Anita Davidson and John Kilkenny came in first place in the local Elks scholarship contest winning \$300 each. Both students went to Heppner High School. Sherri Wilson and Mike Mills of Heppner came in second and Dena Struthers and Jerry Gentry placed third.

The Archbishop of Central Africa, the Most Rev. Donald Arden, came to town to visit Heppner's All Saints Parish. Chairman Mike Sweeney was busy putting together plans for Heppner's celebration of the Bicentennial.

The Elks Foundation Association was sponsoring a coyote killing contest in an attempt to improve the survival chances of baby deer and elk.

Todd Peterson sank a 22-foot shot with 19 seconds left in the game to lead Ione to a 53-52 win over the Helix Grizzlies to lock up a tie for first place in the Big Sky Conference.

Heppner placed third in the Columbia Basin League after beating Pilot Rock 83-79.

Denny Smith challenges Rep. Ullman to debate

Residents of the 2nd congressional district would have an opportunity to hear the candidates for Congress debate each other, under a proposal made by Republican candidate Denny Smith. The Salem businessman has made the request in a letter to his opponent, Representative Al Ullman.

"The latest bribery scandal on Capitol Hill is further eroding the public's sense of trust and confidence in our government," Smith wrote. Smith believes that he and Ullman can help restore public confidence in the political system by holding debates.

Smith said he realizes that many incumbents are reluctant to debate because they don't want to give challengers the chance to become better known, and because they are afraid of damaging their own

reputations. "I am sure you do not fall into this category," Smith wrote to the Congressman.

Smith said that by requesting a debate he was following up on a conversation he had with Ullman last fall. Smith had contacted Ullman to let him know he was running, and the two agreed that the campaign should be run on the issues.

"I'm hoping that you agree with me that one of the best ways for us to run on the issues is to debate each other," Smith said.

In his letter, dated Feb. 12, Smith asked for "a series of debates in different locations through the second congressional district." Smith suggested that the two campaign staffs confer to make the necessary arrangements.

Willow Creek project to be aired by Army

A meeting to inform Heppner area residents and landowners about the Willow Creek Lake Project and the associated land acquisition program will be conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Heppner High School Cafeteria, beginning at 7:30 p.m. March 4.

The Corps' Walla Walla District will acquire all lands and easements for the dam site, construction areas, public access and use, and for relocations of public utilities, roads and highways. Approximately 450 acres of land will be required for the project. At the public meeting, land

acquisition schedules and procedures will be described as well as ways in which individual problems caused by the project may be minimized.

Snow operation cost \$105,000

"Operation Snowmarch," the name the State Highway Division applied to its snow removal efforts in the Columbia Gorge during Jan. 7 through 15, cost the state \$105,000. H. Scott Coulter, state highway engineer, said recently.

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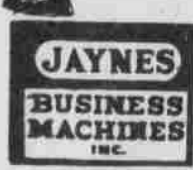
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