

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

**The Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper
U.S.P.S. 240-420

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Concerned with quality education'

Editor:
All of us in Morrow County are vitally concerned with the quality of education our children receive. The following article appeared in the Portland Oregonian Friday, April 18, 1980. It should interest us all.

Field News Service
CHICAGO—The scientific knowledge of Soviet youth is far beyond what Americans ever attempted to achieve, according to an authority on mathematics education at the University of Chicago.

And as a result, said Izaak Wirszup, a professor of mathematics, it is only a matter of time until the Soviets overtake the United States in scientific and technological advances with both industrial and military applications.

"It is my considered opinion," he said, "that the recent Soviet educational mobilization, although not as spectacular as the launching of the first Sputnik, poses a formidable challenge to the national security of the United States, one that is far more threatening than any in the past and one that will be much more difficult to meet."

Wirszup's findings, contained in a preview report to the National Science Foundation, are considered significant because his was the first in-depth scientific education and because of his credentials.

Wirszup, 65, is regarded as an international authority on education in mathematics, particularly in communist countries. He is co-author of a 14-volume series—"Soviet Studies in the Psychology of Learning and

Teaching Mathematics"—and directs two National Science Foundation projects at the University of Chicago.

He is not considered a doomsayer. While describing his latest findings as "alarming," he is quick to note that he is "not an alarmist."

The preview of his research immediately stirred reaction at the highest levels of government and in academic circles.

It was in part because of Wirszup's report that President Carter recently said he was "increasingly concerned" about the adequacy of science and engineering education in the United States.

In a Feb. 8 memorandum, Carter ordered the National Science Foundation and the new Education Department to review science and engineering education policies "to ensure that we are taking measures which will preserve our national strength."

Wirszup's report is startling because previous comparisons of U.S.-Soviet educational systems assumed that the 12-year primary and secondary schooling in this country must inherently be superior because it is two years longer than the Soviet educational system.

But Wirszup found otherwise in poring over Soviet textbooks, scientific journals and entrance examinations.

"Their entire population," he concluded in an interview, "is getting an education that only a few percent of our best are getting. We think of Russians as barbarians and so forth, but they are tremendously sophisticated."

"We never even aimed at what they have already achieved," he said.

Among his findings:

—Some 97.7 percent of Soviet students completed secondary school in 1978, compared with 75 percent in the United States. The graduation rate is particularly dramatic when contrasted with the Stalin era of the 1940s, when only 4.9 percent of Soviet children completed school.

—Compulsory mathematics courses for Soviet students cover the equivalent of at least 13 years of U.S. schooling. For example, more than 5 million graduates of Soviet secondary institutions in 1978 and 1979 had studied calculus for two years, compared with 105,000 U.S. high students in 1976 who had taken a one-year calculus course.

We have many things to consider concerning the remedy for this situation. That we could mire down in petty considerations would be a national disaster for which our grandchildren would pay dearly. We must put regional differences aside.

Our total economy has been dealt a gut-level blow. No one here is not affected. Now is the time for concerted, concerned efforts with experts in the educational field to help us mold a program with which we can all live.

Our school administration needs help in this time of crises. Our school district is out of money to do everything we wish. The ill-conceived effort of a ban on field trips proposed by Supt. Doherty does not offer a solution to our economic problems, nor our public relations problems either. I ask that experts be called in to advise us as to what choices we can consider that would best benefit all our communities.

Meg Murray

'He should build own golf course'

Editor:
Twenty five years ago a few dedicated people who wanted to golf had a dream that became a reality through their donated efforts of hard labor to make Willow Creek Country Club what it is today.

While reading The Heppner Gazette-Times I found Mr. Steven Powell is upset regarding the fact that W.C.C.C. is a private golf course. I commend him for his concern. Since he feels so strongly about a public course I wonder if he has thought of perhaps building one for himself and the others of whom he spoke.

At his "tender age" this shouldn't be any problem since I noticed in his article that he has already laid the mental groundwork.

Yours truly,
Lois Hunt,
Lexington, Ore.

An endorsement of Mary Martin

Editor:
During the past 13 years, I have come to know Mary Martin socially and through her involvement and in community and educational concerns.

I have found Mary to be a very capable, dedicated person of integrity.

It is on this basis that I wish to publicly endorse Mary Martin for the nomination of Morrow County treasurer in the upcoming May 20 primary.

Sue Zanne Duncan,
Lexington, Ore.

Had great time

Editor:
Heppner has been visited this past weekend by the entire membership of the 90th Street Irregulars Club of Portland. Had a great time.

J.W. and Doreen Landell
Paul and Nancy Milke
Keith and Edna Kreider

Postal Watchdogs

Postal inspectors are often the unsung heroes of the U.S. Postal Service who protect the public against the fraudulent use of the mails. Here is a case in point.

Last autumn the Heppner Gazette-Times received a classified advertisement submitted for publication that was typed on a letterhead bearing the name, "American Job Opportunities," with a post office box address in Azusa, Calif. The ad itself was headed "Earn \$1,000 Weekly!" It offered jobs, "in all occupations, men and women," on the Alaskan-Canadian Gas Pipeline. It invited people to write for information about job applications.

It was typical of a kind of ad that newspapers frequently receive and usually reject. If published, those who might respond could be duped out of phoney registration fees for employment that doesn't exist.

To anyone acquainted with Alaska, the ad in question smacked of fraud—for the eventual pipeline to carry natural gas from Alaska's North Slope, through Canada to the U.S. Pacific Coast or the Midwest is far from being a reality right now. While a consortium of oil and gas companies has been formed to construct segments of the pipeline, the financing is yet to be secured, inter-governmental agreements and labor contracts are yet to be signed.

So, of course, there are no jobs. Whenever there is a start on the project, the hiring would be done either through various labor unions or by direct application to the construction firms involved.

Not long after receipt of the ad cited here, we sent a copy to Gov. Jay S. Hammond of Alaska. A response came from Edmund S. Orbeck, Alaska's Commissioner of Labor, who said, "We have made a continued effort to inform the people of the lower 48 states that these job ads are nothing more than a rip-off."

As a recent follow-up, Mr. Orbeck sent us a note enclosing a clipping from the Anchorage Times describing the couple who had advertised themselves as "American Job Opportunities." They had been indicted on 15 counts of mail fraud, a federal felony. The woman had been arrested and was being held in Los Angeles under \$25,000 bail but her husband, investigators said, had taken the money and bought a farm in Ecuador, where he was thought to be residing.

It happens that their ad was published in some places and people did respond, submitting \$15 "registration" fees with their job applications. Thanks to the alertness of Alaska officials and to the action of the postal inspectors proceeding on complaints, this particular scheme was nipped.

(The future Alaska-Canada natural gas pipeline is really not such a far-away concern. A 35-mile segment is to cross Morrow County, following the route of an existing pipeline operated by the Pacific Gas Transmission Co. Until the main transmission line from Alaska is completed, the pipeline through the Pacific Northwest will carry gas from Alberta for the use of California consumers.)

Property-value changes posted

Property value change notices are being mailed by Morrow County tax assessor Greg Sweek this spring as usual—but not to all property owners.

Under Oregon's 1979 Tax Relief Plan, property is divided into two classes: "homes & d's" (owner-occupied homes) and "all other property." The "all other property" class includes commercial, industrial and rental home properties.

Value change notices for

property in the "all other property" class are being mailed during April and May as in past years. But assessors will mail homestead value notices in the fall.

The value change notices will show both the property's true cash (market) value and the assessed value. The assessed value is a percentage of the true cash value. Local tax rates will be applied to the assessed value to determine the property owner's tax bill this fall.

'Remark shows ignorance of Civil Service'

Editor:

I read with some amusement remarks attributed to Orville Cutsforth in the issue of April 17, suggesting my retirement from the postal service after 35 years is a major factor in the current inflation. His attributed remarks show ignorance of how the Civil Service Retirement Fund operates. It is soundly funded from employee contributions and is in no danger of going bankrupt as is sometimes rumored about Social Security. Federal salaries and annuity payments are both 100 percent taxable. Social Security payments are not.

Mr. Cutsforth showed additional ignorance by stating Heppner had two postmasters who retired after only 20 years' service. That state-

ment is 100 percent false—if the paper reported his remarks correctly. I served over 35 years in the postal service and other government agencies. Mr. Wilson over 30. I understand that there was a health problem with Mr. Wilson's retirement. I know he did have open heart surgery a few years ago.

Major causes of inflation? There are many factors involved but I understand the flooding of federal dollars into the economy is a major factor.

Mr. Cutsforth was a farmer when I knew him.

Under the flooding of federal dollars concept, how about the following as inflation-contributing programs?

1. Federal price supports to farmers to keep grain prices

artificially high.

2. Federal subsidies to farmers to build storage bins on their own land. (Low-cost loan guarantee).

3. Federal subsidies to farmers for storing their own wheat in their own bins.

4. Federal subsidies to farmers for not growing a crop, taking land out of production.

5. Federal subsidies to farmers for such programs as frashy fallow, contour furrows, spring development, land leveling, moving creek channels, etc., etc. etc.

There are many more farmers than retired postmasters and, as Orville says, "These costs really add up."

Perhaps Mr. Cutsforth never applied for any benefits

under the above programs but they were on the books and available from time to time in the past. To assist farmers in scratching a living from the thin soil of eastern Oregon, the various levels of government maintain the following agencies—Soil Conservation Service—Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the county agent's office and, in some aspects, the U.S. Forest Service.

I have no quarrel with this concept. I do think however when the public is being informed of problems, they should be given the whole picture truthfully and not fed irrational statements based on nothing but personal bias.

James H. Driscoll
25115 Kirby, Space 339
Hemet, Calif. 92343

'Nonproductive spending crux of inflation'

Editor:

The recent statement by the Department of Revenue that people couldn't pay their taxes because the government is competing with credit cards is interesting, but wrong. The government competes with its child, inflation, for the taxpayer's money.

It is non-productive government spending that sends too many dollars chasing too few consumer goods. That is the crux of our inflation.

The government's cure: Cripple the productive part of the economy while continuing the non-productive government part—primarily at the federal level.

Why? For political rather than economic reasons.

It is a vicious chain. Excess government spending creates inflation; inflation causes incomes to increase (generally); taxpayers move into higher tax brackets although they make no gain in real dollars (purchasing power); the state and federal government have the additional taxes to spend, again for many non-productive purposes; the employees who receive the non-productive dollars compete for consumer goods with productive workers; too many dollars chase too few goods; inflation is the direct result; and the cycle starts all over again.

Our elected leaders don't seem to understand the process.

The Oregon Senate killed a bill to index the income tax brackets which would have kept taxpayers in the same bracket when their wage gains merely kept up with inflation, and the U.S. Senate just killed income tax bracket indexing at the federal level.

There is some hope—if the taxpayers have the initiative to do a little work.

A petition has been filed to index the state income tax, but 54,000 signatures are needed by July 3, 1980, the day before Independence Day.

The petitions were to be available April 28, 1980, and can be obtained by writing to State Representative John Schoon, 7090 Zena Road, Rickreall, Oregon 97371, or by calling at 835-5301.

Sincerely,
John Schoon
9090 Zena Road
Rickreall, OR 97371

(Mr. Schoon is a member of the Oregon Legislature, House of Representatives, for District 34. By occupation, he is a bank loan officer.)

Farm population

In the United States, two percent of the population is involved in agriculture. In the Soviet Union 18 percent, in Japan 14 percent, in India 65 percent, Brazil 40 percent, Australia six percent, and France 10 percent, according to a recent Oregon Wheat League release.

Sifting through the TIMES

1930

Fifty years ago the Extension Service sponsored a grain grading seminar.

Bids were being taken for the Heppner to Spray road.

Zella McFerrin and Crockett Sprouts were married in Davton, Wash. April 21 and managed to keep the marriage secret until some friends learned about it a week later.

Morrow County's crow, magpie and hawk population was diminished by 10,000 after members of the Lions had a bird pests drive with a bounty paid of two cents on eggs and five cents on heads.

The glee club and mixed chorus from Heppner High participated in the Forest Grove Music tournament. The boys glee club was third and the mixed chorus third.

1955

Twenty five years ago it was National Hospital Week and the Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner was planning an open house. It was the first opportunity for the public to view the just completed two-bed addition. The addition cost \$13,000 and gave the hospital a total of 44 beds.

Sylvia McDaniel was named County Treasurer by the county court replacing the retiring Lucy Rodgers.

Darlene Conner was selected to Girls' State. James Farley, owner and operator of the Pontiac, Buick and GMC dealership, had an open house to celebrate moving to a new location on east May Street.

Business Directory

Auto Parts

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

Floor Covering

The Rapco Foamers M & R FLOOR COVERING
Carpet, Linoleum, Ceramic Tile, Kitchen Cabinets, Rapco Insulation
422 Linden Way Heppner 676-9418

Furniture

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Heppner

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TURNER VAN MARGER & BRYANT INSURANCE
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Telephone 676-9115
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Petroleum

Chevron GLENN DEVIN
Chevron USA, Inc.
Commission Agent
676-9633