

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'New Heppner span a tax waste'

(The following letter was submitted for publication.)
June 16, 1980

Governor Victor Atiyeh
State Capital Building
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Governor Atiyeh:

I wish to advise you of a proposed gross misappropriation of taxpayers' funds.

The Oregon State Highway Dept. is proposing to destroy and rebuild a perfectly good, functioning concrete bridge within the city limits of Heppner, Oregon.

This bridge was constructed

in 1921 and has withstood all the floods in Heppner, mainly due to its being considerably higher than the city.

The proposed reconstruction and subsequent widening of this bridge would devalue the residences affected by greatly reducing the street frontage, and would eliminate street parking for four residences and a grocery store; there is no other parking available for two residences.

The taxpayers of Morrow County voted down the school budget the first time, also the city budget. We are in a recession. The state general fund is looking at a deficit, our

local plywood plant and sawmill have reduced their employees by some 200 persons (greatly reducing the traffic, both commercial and private on this bridge).

If the Willow Creek dam goes through, the Willow Creek highway will be re-routed practically eliminating any log truck traffic and greatly reducing private traffic.

In view of these facts, how would you justify the misuse of \$100,000 to \$150,000 of taxpayers' hard-earned funds?

If the State Highway Dept. still insists on widening this bridge over the opposition of the local taxpayers, it could be done at a fraction of the cost by merely filling the space between the pedestrian lanes and the guard rails and adding new pedestrian lanes; this would create no harm to anyone and give a bridge traffic width of 29'6" which is 3'6" wider than the available street with parallel parking. I fail to see any reason for a bridge being wider than the street it serves.

If the state still insists on squandering our funds, you could consider replacing the highway bridge into Echo, Oregon, that crosses the Umatilla River. It was built in 1926 and is 6" narrower than the Heppner bridge that is the subject of this letter. The Echo bridge has a heavy traffic of trucks, including a great number of potato trucks that are wider than most trucks. (Heppner's bridge has no potato truck traffic.)

There is also the bridge at the foot of the Hardman grade that has been responsible for a number of deaths and crashes.

I hope this letter will be given your most earnest attention.

Thank you.
Yours truly,
Paul N Hansen
260 East May Street
Heppner, Oregon 97836

card industry would loan out at 20 percent plus interest; and

Whereas: United Seniors and senior groups listed below believe there is a more humane way to "make a buck" than by grinding the faces of the poor, and the elderly poor in particular.

Therefore: Be it resolved: United Seniors and senior groups listed below go on record opposing any annual fee for the use of credit cards, or any increase of percentage charged on retail sales.

Be it further resolved: That a copy of this resolution be mailed to all state and national offices of the credit card industry and to all major news outlets in Oregon.

The above document is approved and supported by:

Carmalite I. Weddle
President Salem Area Seniors

Rex Griggs,
Oregon State Council
for Senior Citizens

S.T. Ford,
Chairperson, Dist. 3,
Area Agency on Aging
Advisory Council

'County wages behind living costs'

Editor:

June 24th is the date the Morrow County budget will again be voted on by the taxpayers. I would like to make a few comments concerning salaries for Morrow County employees.

The county cost-of-living adjustment for 1980-81 is based on 8 percent plus one-half of the January Portland Consumer Price Index over that amount. The CPI for January was 14.8 percent. Using the formula than of 8 percent plus 3.4 percent gave a figure of 11.4 percent. This is the amount of increase given to all employees for cost of living adjustment.

The CPI for March was 16.6 percent. So even though our salaries are newly adjusted they are still behind the rate of

inflation. This is something the County Court cannot control. It is up to our national leaders to curb inflation. Since we cannot treat the cause, we have to treat the effect.

Some county positions, like those of the commissioners, were given only cost of living adjustments, others were given an actual salary increase. The last three years the cost-of-living adjustment was well below the rate of inflation. Employees were losing buying power. It was bound to create a financial crunch, and it did.

The county began to lose employees because higher-paying jobs were available. The cost to the county to have a high turnover rate is considerable. The choice was

to raise wages to be competitive or become a training ground for personnel to reach better jobs. Asking people to work for less than the going rate is equivalent to asking them to donate a portion of their wages for the privilege of holding a county job.

The Court house Salary Committee reviewed all the salaries, including those of elected officials and wage earners. It decided on a schedule it deemed fair and equitable for all. (The committee based the Judge's salary on the pay of other county employees with similar responsibility. The Judge was not involved in that decision.) The budget committee reviewed the schedule and adopted it.

The voter of Morrow County is the actual employer. The Salary Committee has recommended an increase. Now the individual must decide what constitutes good responsible management.

The job of County Commissioner is considered to be a half-time position, or 20 hours a week. One day a week is spent in a court session either in Heppner or Irrigon. The remaining time is spent in a variety of ways: Attending meetings, caring for correspondence, doing necessary reading, listening to individual problems, following up on needed action and seeking solutions.

Let me give you a brief rundown on job-related re-

sponsibilities that I hold presently: Secretary-treasurer of East Central Oregon Association of Counties, secretary of Quintra Transportation for Elderly and Handicapped, vice chairman of Eastern Oregon State College Regional Services Institute, chairman of ECOAC Economic Development Project Review Committee, member of Public Lands Committee, Association Oregon Counties; member of Developmental Disabilities Council of Oregon, member of Legislative Interim Committee County Law Revision, chairman of ECOAC Budget Committee and chairman of Morrow County Per-

sonnel Policy Committee.

In addition to serving on the executive committee or as a member of the above, I also attend Comprehensive Planning sessions, Budget School, legislative updates, planning institutes, computer seminars, and other meetings where court representation is needed.

The list is not complete but I hope that I have given enough to convince the reader that the job of County Commissioner is time consuming, laden with responsibility and calls for constant decision-making.

Dorothy Krebs,
Morrow County
Commissioner

Seniors fight credit fees

Editor:

At the United Seniors' meeting on April 23, 1980, action was taken to consider this resolution. A motion was made to pass the resolution and it was passed unanimously.

Whereas: There are 380,000 senior citizens in Oregon past 65 years old; and

Whereas: More than 50 percent or 190,000 plus have incomes below the poverty level; and

Whereas: The large percentage of those remaining are on the brink of poverty; and

Whereas: It is no longer safe for anyone to carry even small amounts of money on their persons; and

Whereas: The elderly are the least able to defend themselves against robbery, both legal and criminal; and

Whereas: The credit card industry makes from 2 percent to 5 percent from each retail sale at present plus interest on any unpaid balance after thirty days; and

Whereas: If 3000,000 of our elderly in the state held credit cards and are charged \$10 a year for them, amounting to \$3,000,000 which the credit

Senior Citizens

The only special activity for senior citizens scheduled ahead is the annual trip and noontime luncheon at Cutsforth Park on Wednesday, July 9. Those interested in riding to the park in the senior bus need to tell the Heppner Neighborhood Center in advance of the picnic date to arrange a place for them.

Meals to be served to seniors next week at the three meal sites in this county will include, at Irrigon on Monday evening, June 23—roast turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, sliced tomatoes and green peppers, with other relishes.

tossed green salad, bread, butter and jelly and spice cake with topping.

At Heppner on Tuesday, June 24—tomatoe juice, puffed turkey sand wiches, macaroni salad, relishes and cheese sticks, vegetarian baked beans and cream puffs with lemon sauce.

At Ione and Heppner on Wednesday, June 25—meatloaf, mashed potatoes, Harvard beets, tomato aspic salad, cornbread, orange juice and applesauce cupcakes.

74% less energy

The production of steel from scrap metal requires 74 percent less energy than the production of steel from iron ore, so that 1,000 tons of recycled steel save the energy equivalent of 140,000 gallons of gasoline.

Nick Ranieri gets the lead out. And saves PGE customers about \$480,000 a year.

In the past year, Nick Ranieri and his co-workers have saved PGE customers nearly a half million dollars. They reclaim, recycle and remanufacture materials and parts that are constantly rising in price — like the lead used in electric insulators.

Reclaiming and recycling the lead, along with copper and aluminum, saves about \$10,000 every month. And another \$30,000 is saved monthly by remanufacturing rather than replacing various parts, such as clamps, switches and brackets.

In total, it means savings of around \$480,000. Savings that are more important now than ever before.

Electricity costs are going up everywhere, it's not just here. Both private and public utilities throughout the country are facing soaring prices. Higher equipment costs, fuel costs and interest rates have everyone on a tight budget. And the rapid growth of new customers in our service area is another of the problems we face.

But, at PGE, we are fortunate to have people like Nick Ranieri working hard to keep costs down wherever they can. People with cost-savings ideas for you.



SALE MEAT VALUES

Prices Effective June 19-20-21



Boneless Fully Cooked

Pierce's Ham 1³⁹ lb.

Pork Back Ribs 79^c lb.

Western Family Bacon 1³⁹ 1 1/2 lb. pkg.

Scott 4 Pak Bathroom Tissue 99^c

Kraft Deluxe 14 oz. Macaroni & Cheese 89^c

Western Family Large, Pitted Ripe



Olives 59^c 6 oz.

Fresh Produce

Seedless Grapes 89^c lb.

Fresh Corn 5 ears / 1

Bing Cherries 79^c lb.

Choice Pizza 50^c Off Reg. Price



Grocery—676-9614 Meat—676-9288