

Around About By Justine Weatherford

So another election has come and gone, and life must continue even for those whose favorite candidates didn't win and whose favorite measures went down to defeat. A really good trend may have begun—the voters' response to this off-year, non-presidential election was better in most localities than it has been.

Because I have not tried to ascertain the number of registered voters in Morrow County, I cannot state what percent voted. I just happen to have the results of the November 2 voting and of the May 18 voting in that primary election before me. Last May the most votes were cast for the Morrow County tax base measure, a total of 1827. Last week the most votes, 2547, appear to have been cast on Ballot Measure 6, which proposed to end the state's land use planning powers but to retain local planning. From the published totals of votes cast, it appears that 718 more citizens in this county market ballots last week than marked them in May. Very good!

As I further study the May and November voting, I note that 738 Republican votes were cast for the two persons running for the commissioner position in May while 745 were cast for the single Democratic candidate who then won last week in a close contest by 1277 votes to 1265 for his opponent. The only totals published on state ballot measures were for Measure 3, the one limiting real property tax to one and one-half percent of 1979 true cash value, which went down locally by 1708 to 861 votes, and Measure 6 voting which was much closer with 1385 favoring it and 1162 opposed.

The Sunday "Oregonian" and KATU, Channel 2, really put forth great tributes to former governor Tom McCall on Sunday, Nov. 7. It is rather unusual to see a living public figure so lauded and so completely eulogized. It is a pretty sure thing that McCall is succumbing to cancer; he positively states "I can't be with you much longer." His career and life before and after his public service has been most interesting. I found that I have most often been in agreement with his viewpoints. When his final moment ends I am wondering what more the media will find to say about him after last Sunday's massive tributes.

It was good to note that the Morrow County Grain Growers had a good year last year. This is satisfying to the members of the co-op and to all of us in this county. We are waiting to see how the year shaped-up for the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op. What happens there more directly affects each of our households. There was much wailing and gnashing of teeth when the increased electric bills arrived this month.

Somehow many of us find it hard to understand why our sincere efforts to conserve gasoline and electric power just have seemed to result in causing us to pay more for the gasoline and electric power we need to use. It sort of looks like, in those cases, that conservation just doesn't pay for most individuals.

From politics to weather. When I watch the TV weather news from Portland, I keep feeling thankful that this part of the state has more sunshine and less rain and fog. One usually feels more like bounding out of the covers in the morning when there is brightness outside the window than when the night seems to cling in the sky and a rather gloomy-type day portends. Last Monday morning, the first snowflakes of the season, that I have noted, began falling inside Heppner's city limits.

November's big days are today, which many of us still call Armistice Day but which may be more accurately labeled Armed Forces Day, and then two weeks from now when the annual, historic, harvest festival of Thanksgiving arrives. Little children undoubtedly feel that the time between Halloween and Christmas is mighty long. However, this grandmother feels like each year that time lapse rushes by more swiftly and has surely somehow been shortened. Another big day this month, it isn't much fun to mention, is November 15, that necessary tax-payment date. It sort of slows one's beginning plans for Christmas giving.

Perhaps in the election excitement you did not note three firsts taking place in the U.S.A. last week. The day after the election the stock market set a new high, then the national trade deficit and national unemployment also reached new highs. It is interesting to read and hear experts disagreeing about our economic future—saying the depression is over and everything is improving, or saying that the worst may still be ahead of us.

Preparations for winter, which officially arrives on December 21, should be well along by now. When I was thinking about stuffing rags around my water meter, I had a chance to chat, briefly with Cornett Green about my plan, and Cornett said "Use wadded up newspaper. It is the best insulator. I always use newspaper." So now I have found another use for old newspapers—and I hope mine and other paper-protected meters will stay unfrozen.

As we look about on the cooler days this fall it seems that smoke is billowing-up from wood fires in most homes. The wood stove business has really boomed with the upsurge in heating oil, gas and electricity prices. I have been a bit envious of my friends who have hauled firewood to their homes by the truckloads and who keep it burning pretty constantly in their fuel-efficient stoves and fireplaces. Because my fireplace is not at all efficient and I have no wood stove and am not fixed for hauling wood, I have not burned much of my small accumulation of wood very regularly.

Last Sunday morning, just before my departure for church time, some dear friends surprised me with a most exciting pre-Christmas gift. They brought a pickup load of great fireplace-sized wood and stacked it on my back porch. So that afternoon and evening I had a crackling fireplace fire and enjoyed it rather selfishly all by myself as I lazily watched some Sunday TV. Like most folks who live alone, I often find Sunday evenings a little more lonesome than other evenings. Having a bright, warming fire, especially one contributed by generous, thoughtful friends, really took away most of that lonesome feeling.

I hope others are agreeing that some open-channel TV is very good this year. I suppose we all have favorite stations. I have two favorites which I watch most frequently, with rare exceptions. I am rather addicted to the Public Broadcasting Service and to ABC's KATU. However, along with other friends and family members, I feel compelled to view CBS a little while for "Sunday Morning" and insist on watching "60 Minutes" on Sunday evenings. If snowflakes continue to fall, more of us will find TV viewing is becoming a bigger part of our lives than we ever expected it to become.

As winter closes in it is good to visualize countless families being warmed by wood and enjoying many evenings of good TV together.

Free energy audits offered

When winter's chill hits your pocketbook, it's time to weatherize: Free home energy audits and financial incentives are available to all Oregon households, regardless of how the home is heated, according to the Oregon Department of Energy (O.D.O.E.)

"The 1982-83 heating season is here and the cost of all types of home heating fuel—electricity, natural gas, fuel oil and wood—is likely to increase," said Deanna Mueller-Crispin, manager of O.D.O.E.'s Oil Heat Weatherization Program. "The best way to reduce fuel bills is to make sure your home uses energy efficiently, and that means insulation, storm windows, caulking and weatherstripping and heating system efficiency," Mueller-Crispin said.

Oregon's newest weatherization incentive program of-

fers free home energy audits to all homeowners who heat with oil or propane. Those homeowners are eligible for a state-sponsored 6.5 percent weatherization loan for measures recommended in the audit. The loan can cover the cost of a new, high-efficiency oil burner, the Oregon Department of Energy said.

The oil heat program, approved by the 1981 Legislature, has completed more than 4,800 home energy audits since early this year. More than 500 households have used the state low-interest financing for weatherization measures, the department reported.

Similar audits and incentives are available to customers of Oregon natural gas and electric utility companies, including Peoples Utility Districts (PUDs). Customers

should contact their space heating utility for more information. Households that heat with wood can request a free home energy audit from the electric utility, the department said. Those wood-heated households then are eligible for the state-sponsored 6.5 percent weatherization loan.

Households that heat with fuel oil or propane should contact their dealer or call (toll free) 1-800-452-8660 for more information. For more information on Oregon's residential energy conservation programs, O.D.O.E.'s state-side toll-free number is 1-800-452-7813.

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SERVE-U

FOOD STORES

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Happy Birthday Greg Sweek!

(Are you really that old?)