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County of Morrow  
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**GAZETTE-TIMES**  
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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Basic facts about W.P.P.S.S.**

To the editor:  
The Supply System or W.P.P.S.S. situation has been getting a lot of media attention lately—everywhere from the state's smallest weeklies to national news shows like CBS's "60 Minutes." Yet no matter what size the audience, it's important that people have access to some basic facts about the supply system—facts that are often overlooked in the rush to cover breaking news.

We find that most people in this state view W.P.P.S.S. as somebody other than themselves. But the fact is that the Supply System was formed in 1957 to build power plants for Washington's public utilities—utilities that could not individually build central generating projects. The supply system is the construction, financing and operating arm of 19 separate public utilities and four municipalities.

Its first project was a 17.5-megawatt hydroelectric facility near Mt. Rainier. Since 1964, this Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project has generated more than three billion kilowatt hours of electricity. Two years later, the supply system completed the 860 megawatt Hanford Generating Project—which uses by-product steam from the federally owned and operated N Reactor on the Hanford Site. This project has produced more than 53-billion kilowatt hours of electricity and annually meets about five percent of the Northwest's electrical power needs. Like our nuclear projects, both were financed by bond sales and these are being paid back with revenues from the sale of the projects' electricity.

So you see, the supply system had been producing power and repaying its construction costs for eight years before a spade of dirt was dug at any of its nuclear projects. And regardless of what happens to these later projects, the supply system will still exist to run these highly successful operating plants.

The next supply system project to start producing power is the 1,150 megawatt Plant 2 near Richland, Wash. It is only months away from commercial operation in the spring of 1984.

Even though Plant 2 will soon be providing electricity to the regional grid, few understand how and who brought it into being. For the answer, we have to go back 15 years to a group called the Joint Power Planning Council (an organization of 108 Pacific Northwest electric utilities), and to the Bonneville Power Administration (which markets power from the Northwest's federal hydro-electric dam system). Together, the j.p.p.c. and B.P.A. drew up a 10-year Hydro Thermal Power Program. This plan called for about 20 new power plants including what were to

become W.N.P.-1, -2, and -3. It's important to understand that the supply system did not forecast power needs nor did it "sell" the need for nuclear plants. It was asked by 104 public utilities, four private utilities and B.P.A. to construct W.N.P.-1, -2 and -3. The utilities contracted with the supply system, and the supply system used these contracts to obtain funds through the sale of bonds. These bonds were attractive to investors since they were backed by B.P.A. through net-billing agreements.

However, that was not the case with two later projects W.N.P.-4, and 5. These twin units to W.N.P.-1 and -3 were backed only by agreements with 88 participating utilities. The contracts with these Project 4-5 participants to share in the annual costs of the projects including debt service on the bonds—whether or not the projects were ever completed or operational.

So that's how the five nuclear projects got started—with agreements that asked the supply system to build them. Now, a decade later, what has happened?

First, the demand for electric power is far less than the 1970s forecasters ever imagined. The recession has greatly influenced the need for power in our region. That is one reason that Projects 4 and 5 were not included in the Regional Power Plan of 1983, even though they were a vital part of earlier plans.

Secondly, the projects themselves suffered from schedule delays, inexperienced management, cost overruns and labor problems until mid-1980. There were a host of reasons for these problems—changing government regulations, soaring interest rates and the burden of managing five nuclear construction projects with three different designs at once.

Thirdly, the Washington State Supreme Court this summer invalidated the contracts for W.N.P.-4-5 leading to default on \$2.25 billion already spent on these two plants, and our inability to raise further funds through conventional financing to finish Project 3. (Plant 2 is being funded to completion directly by B.P.A.)

Oddly enough, by the time the decisions were made to terminate Projects 4 and 5 and slow Projects 1 and 3—management and productivity were no longer major issues.

It's true that you read a lot of bad news these days about the "W.P.P.S.S. problem" and you may read more bad news, but we should submit that there have been very few exposes or critical stories about how the actual construction program has been going for nearly three years.

Sincerely,  
Gary R. Peterson  
Director, Information Services

**Oregon needs good roads**

To the editor:  
The Oregon Forest Products Transportation Association believes that all Oregonians should have an opportunity to vote on the proposed two cent gas tax increase. On March 31, 1983, state and federal fuel taxes totalled 12 cents a gallon. April 1, the federal five cent fuel tax was added making the total 17 cents. If the state two cent gas tax goes into effect, it will be 58 percent increase in one year.

Like automobile owners, truckers also face tax increases. The passage of the two cent tax and the companion weight-mile taxes alone will raise by 26 percent the taxes paid by the average trucker with a truck weighing 80,000 pounds.

O.F.P.T.A. members recognize the need for good roads; good roads are good for us. Especially the non-interstates the majority of Oregonians use most often. This is why O.F.P.T.A. offered the legislature a workable and affordable alternative that would have raised \$21 million annually for Oregon's non-interstate roads, streets and highways, and would have only taxed cars \$10 and trucks \$25.

The State Department of Transportation claims that it needs the two cent gas tax revenue for matching federal dollars. Indeed, this money will be used as they say, but money can be found elsewhere. Although the state's maintenance budget is tight, matching money can be found in it, according to D.O.T.'s testimony, during the hearings.

Also, if the registration fee increase passes this spring, which O.F.P.T.A. hopes it does, the money will be used for Oregon's bridge system. This then will free up additional money.

Truck taxes imposed on Oregon forest products trucks will double between 1981 and 1984 and by 1985 will be at least \$5,769, coming at the worst time of financial crisis in more than two decades. O.F.P.T.A.'s recent survey shows that nearly 1,000 Oregon forest products truckers expect to go out of business by 1985—creating economic problems for many other Oregonians.

As a result, O.F.P.T.A. members are circulating a referendum petition that will place the gas tax on the November, 1984, General Election Ballot—where it should be. We need, however, 41,680 signatures by October 14, 1983. If you are interested in helping please call Bob McKellar or Jim Wiles at (503) 364-5168.

Oregon Forest Products Transportation Association  
Hal Evy  
Chairman of the Board

**Justice Court**

Morrow County Justice Court at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner handled the following cases during the past week:

Joe Burr Sturza, Heppner - Expired Vehicle License, \$12 fine.

Douglas Kent McPherson, Pendleton - Possession of an Open Container of Alcoholic Liquor, \$55 bail forfeited.

Betty Karen Griffin, Pendleton - Open Container of Alcoholic Liquor in a Motor Vehicle, \$55 bail forfeited.

Stephen Eugene McKenzie, Irrigon - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (70 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$35 bail forfeited.

Jerald Jay Jensen, Springfield - Illegal U-Turn, \$29 bail forfeited.

Thomas Edward Jefferies, Clarkston, Wash. - Careless Driving, \$107 bail forfeited.

Richard James Gammell, Stanfield - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (68 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Eugene Clyde Farley, Heppner - No PUC Permit, \$12 fine.

Philip John Marquardt, Lexington - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (74 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Catherine Mardelle Pointer, Lexington - Violation of the Basic Rule (51 mph in a 35 mph zone), \$28 fine.

John Richard Church, Jr., Hermiston - Violation of the Basic Rule (40 mph in a 20 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Brent Michael Sherer, Ione - Violation of the Basic Rule (40 mph in a 25 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Peggy Lynn Moore, Kennewick, Wash. - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (74 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Gregory Floyd Jones, Heppner - Violation of the Basic Rule (44 mph in a 25 mph zone), \$55 bail forfeited.

Brent Abel Williams, Boardman - Violation of the Basic Rule (38 mph in a 25 mph zone), \$55 bail forfeited.

Dallas Albert Rea, Hermiston - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (74 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Raymond Vaughn Curnutt, Irrigon - Possession of an Open Container of Alcoholic Liquor, \$28 fine.

Brenda Joyce O'Brien, Pendleton - Possession of an Open Container of Alcoholic Liquor, \$28 fine.

Jenny Gail Hunt, Pendleton - Possession of an Open Container of Alcoholic Liquor, \$28 fine.

**D.A.'s Report**

Morrow County District Attorney Richard McNeerney handled the following cases during the past week:

Tommy R. Ayers, 27, of Heppner pleaded guilty to Felony Driving While Revoked on September 9 in Morrow County Circuit Court. He was sentenced to one year in jail - suspended, was placed on probation for one year, must pay a \$200 fine plus a \$50 assessment fee. After a successful probationary period the charge will be lowered to a misdemeanor.

Ivan E. Dieter, 61, of Boardman, who was indicted September 1, was arraigned on September 9 on a charge of alleged First Degree Sexual Abuse. He is to enter a plea on September 29.

Danny Lopez, Jr., 19, of Arlington was arraigned September 9 on charges of alleged Criminally Negligent Homicide, Third Degree Assault and Recklessly Endangering. He is scheduled to enter a plea on September 29.

A heavy dew is actually the portent of good weather. On cloudless nights the earth loses its heat more rapidly, and a heavier dew results.

**Sheriff's Report**

The Morrow County Sheriff's Department at the Morrow Co. Courthouse in Heppner handled the following calls, cases and reports during the past week:

On September 6, the sheriff's department responded to a motor vehicle accident involving two vehicles in Lexington. No one was seriously injured, according to the sheriff's office. Lola Ann Taylor, 37, of Lexington, was cited for alleged Driving While Suspended, No Liability Insurance and Disobeyed Stop Sign.

On September 9, Allen K. Tompkins, 20, of Irrigon, was arrested on a Morrow County warrant by Boardman Police for alleged Failure to Pay a Fine.

Also on September 9, Daniel J. Ball, 22, of Portland was arrested on an Oregon Corrections Institute escape warrant by the Condon Police Department.

On September 12, Armin D. Ward, 27, of Tenino, Wash. was arrested by Boardman police for alleged First Degree Burglary. He was lodged at the Umatilla City Jail.

**Wedding**

**Contreras — Marlatt**



Mr. and Mrs. Rigo Contreras

Lovena Elizabeth Marlatt of Heppner and Rigo Contreras of Stanfield were married June 11 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Boardman, Oregon.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Marlatt of Heppner. The groom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Contreras of Coalcoman, Mexico.

All four of the bride's sisters and her two brothers took part in the ceremony. Melody was maid of honor, Rosanna was a bridesmaid, Starla was a junior bridesmaid and Alisha was flower girl. Wesley Jr. and Douglas were ushers.

Best man was Gordon Hoffnagle of Stanfield. Art Moreno of Echo was an usher. His son Nicki was ringbearer. Robin Ball of Heppner was also a bridesmaid.

Bishop Larry Smythe officiated at the double ring ceremony. Phyllis Peterson of Hermiston was organist.

Starting the ceremony before the wedding party came in, Wendy Toombs and Don Christensen sang a duet, "Love's Grown Deep," accompanied by Nadine Toombs.

As soon as the bride walked down the aisle, she faced the groom and sang "Looking Through the Eyes of Love." Then Don Christensen sang "Truly." Trina Palmer, cousin of the bride, played the piano.

Judy Paine, friend of the couple, and Joanne Kain, aunt of the bride, served the cake. Karen Palmer and Cheryl Ployhar, cousins of the bride, served the punch. Also serving was Marilyn Perkins, a friend of the couple.

Carlina Rathbun attended the guest book. Melinda Hawkins was at the gift table. Both were classmates of the bride.

The couple is living in Stanfield. The bride is attending Blue Mountain Community College and the groom is a contractor.

**Anniversaries**

**Seehafers celebrate 61st wedding anniversary**

The last weekend of August six of the Seehafer girls came home to help their parents Pansy and Bill Seehafer, of Boardman, celebrate their sixty-first wedding anniversary. Margaret Smith came from Baker, Oregon, Eulenna Vaughn lives at Boardman, Gladys Holderman came from Philomath, Jane Tye from Enterprise, Billie Ballweg from Fort Worth, Texas and Mildred Tavares from Sacramento, Calif.

Three sons-in-law were there: George Holderman, Ronald Tye and Charles Vaughn.

Grandchildren attending were Jo Ann Hayes from Portland, Rosemarie Jones, Loreta Tye and Roberta Tye from Hermiston and Cheryl Coe from Elgin. Great-grandchildren in attendance were Melissa and Carmen Coe, Rebecca Tye and Michael Jones.

Jane Tye rode in the Heppner Rodeo parade as she was a princess in 1950, so most of the family went to Heppner to see this and to visit with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Seehafer have twenty-one grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

**Alter Society plans 'Hall Sale' for Oct. 8**

St. Patrick's Catholic Church Altar Society has set Saturday, Oct. 8 as the date for a "hall sale." This will be a hall sale instead of a yard sale because of the unpredictable weather, said a society spokesperson.

The sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anyone with donations of useable clothing, furniture, appliances or other items may drop them off at Chris Adelman's home, 676-5196, or call Janet Greenup, 676-5822 to leave items at the hall.

**Dick & Maxine - Happy 25th Anniversary**

Love,  
Robin and Richard

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