

## Oregon Trail programs to take us 'back in time'



1800's Historical Consultant Ricia and others model historical clothes



Ricia

The dust swirls around in smothering clouds, clinging to swishing skirts and shuffling feet. It stings the eyes and coats the skin. Life goes on the Oregon Trail isn't easy, but the thought of a better life urges the emigrants on.

These are the thoughts that Ricia, living history specialist, will evoke in her two programs offered in Morrow County this week. "A Glimpse of Life on the Oregon Trail in 1843" is a free program that will be offered at Riverside High School, Boardman on Friday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. and "Looking the Part," a

historic clothing workshop, will be given at Heppner Elementary School on Saturday, May 1, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Carpol Michael-Bennett, Morrow County Extension agent comments that the educational programs will be wonderful opportunities for families to develop interests and hobbies that build family strengths. "Researching our history gives us a feeling of self-worth and pride."

"Preparing for historical celebrations is a great way to get children involved in history," Michael-Bennett continues. "When families are active in

historical pageants and reenactments, such as Oregon Trail activities, the whole family can spend time together."

At "A Glimpse of the Past," on Friday evening, Ricia will exhibit clothing from hoops worn during the civil war era to the bonnets and dresses that so clearly marked trail travel. She will also make suggestions for appropriate costuming for Sesquicentennial activities.

Students that enroll in "Looking the Part" workshop on Saturday May 1, will receive specific information about planning a

costume. They will learn shortcuts such as how to restyle patterns they already have, and creative "make-do's."

Participants are encouraged to bring accessories, fabric or costume parts they already have for questions and "troubleshooting". The cost for the workshop is \$10 for registrations received by April 28. Registration forms are available at the Morrow County Extension Office, 420 Linden Way, Heppner 676-9642 and at the Morrow County Museum, Main Street, Heppner 676-5524.

## Off the Wall By Merlyn Robinson

The cost of doing business at the national level is mind boggling. The system is also out of balance at state and county government levels.

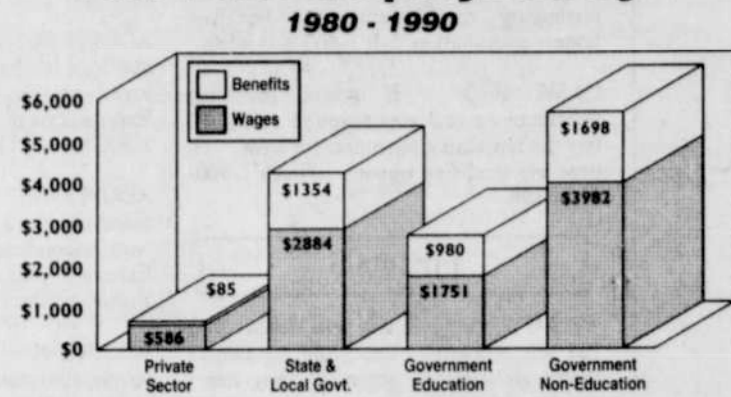
Oregon, once called a rich state, struggles with funding programs as private sector taxpayers hope to be able to stay in business.

State employees' average age of retirement is about 58 years of age compared to 64 in the private sector. According to Dave Moss, director of AOI-PAC, if the taxpayer contribution to the pension system were lowered from 16 to six percent of the payroll, as proposed by HB 2717, the government pension system would still be richer than the average 4.6 percent contribution from those private employers who can even afford a pension plan.

If the public retirement system were reformed for all employees hired after July 1, 1993, during the next biennium the state general fund could save nearly \$12 million. Combined with budget savings from schools and local government, the 1993-95 savings would be nearly \$100 million without adversely affecting the soundness of the retirement system.

The Oregon PERS system employer-paid pension contributions are three times higher for state employees than for private employers. And that excludes many private employers who cannot afford to provide any pension benefits.

### Change In Average Full-Time Employee Pay\*



Rising federal and state regulations add to production costs for agriculture and other private businesses that are the heart of our economy. Voters have the right to choose the level of service, but it shouldn't handicap private business.

A local homeowner might pay around \$500 in property taxes for police and fire protection, streets and sidewalks. In addition, that person must pay for utilities. Compare that to the owner of 5,000 acres with innumerable buildings that can add up to \$5,000 or more in property taxes. That rural owner expects to have a navigable road to his holdings and he may be located in a rural fire district. In case of theft, the sheriff's office can be called. But if that thief were to be injured on the owner's property, the owner could be sued, which leads to liability and other insurance costs, also a major expense.

Fair share should mean that rural residents also pick up costs of a library district or a bond issue to build a new swimming pool. But that's a mere drop in the bucket compared to financing school buildings and improvements in the district.

Unions were designed to protect wage earner's rights, not dictate management terms. The Oregon Education Association was aware that measure five would severely impact school financing and lead to cutting back on programs and even the numbers of teachers. However during the recent county teacher negotiations, the union lobbied for higher salaries and benefits. At the threat of a teacher strike, the school board was coerced into granting those demands.

Starting teachers aren't overpaid, but according to the salary schedule, those with tenure are receiving salaries and benefits in the \$50,000 bracket during nine months of employment. And the district projects that it will take another quarter of a million just to cover those salaries and benefits at about the same level next year.

As voters ponder on the county operating levy vote in May, it's time to consider the inequity of salary benefits between county employees, that are paid by taxpayers, and the real world of the private employer. There's no guarantee that a private business will make enough to cover a cost-of-living raise or provide any profit margin, let alone retirement benefits. It's up to that employer to pay his own benefits or that of his employees, if he can afford them.

It's said that without adequate compensation the quality of government workers would decline. In our area especially, the trade-off is job security, the local quality of life and lower standard of living costs.

As suggested by the budget committee, the first cuts would have to be taken in non-mandated programs that represent a small portion of the total budget. As higher energy costs impact everyone, it's time we faced that concern. Wage and benefit freezes are not out of line at the federal, state and county levels.

## Day care kids hop to fight MD



Children at the Heppner Day Care Center earned \$500 to help in the fight against muscular dystrophy.

Fifteen day care children hopped as much as they could dur-

ing a two-minute period on April 17 and received either pledges for the number of hops or a donation. Proceeds went to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Organizers of the event were Sue Norton and Teresa Baker.

## Heppner Garden Club to meet

The Heppner Garden Club will meet Monday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Senior Center. Each member is to bring a flower arrangement from the design book "Visions of Beauty" or one of her choice. The program will be critiquing these floral designs.

Also on May 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the club will be sponsoring a gardening clinic for the public and a town plant exchange in the senior center dining room. Anyone having plants to share, wanting new plants, or with gardening questions, is invited to attend.

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Wedding - May 1, 1993

Lisanne Kaye Crowley & Stephen James Currin  
Wedding - May 1, 1993

Janet Plocharsky & Dennis Stefani  
Wedding - June 19

Kristi O'Brien & Richard Casey  
Reception May 1, 1993

Melanie Gates & Kevin Troxell  
May 15, 1993

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