

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Signed letters to the editor are welcomed and will be printed if they do not contain comments of a libelous nature or attacks on religious and racial groups. Publication of the letters does not necessarily signify agreement of this newspaper with opinions expressed.

County Judge Gives Account of Activities

Dear Editor:
 This is a copy of letter sent by me to Amell Claude.

ELLIS A. WHITE
 Oct. 12, 1964

Mr. Amell Claude
 Republican Candidate for Malheur County Commissioner

Dear Mr. Claude:
 In answer to your recent letter the following information is given:

1. In July 1964 I made a trip to Washington, D.C., for the following purposes:

(a) Attend the National Council of Juvenile Judges as president of the Oregon Juvenile Judges Association.

(b) As a member of the nominating committee.

(c) As one of ten judges in the nation to report on a study made of School Dropouts and the problems of Disadvantaged Youth.

(d) To consult with Senatorial and Congressional members of Oregon and Idaho, to urge support of amendments to H.B. 1839 Restricting Imports of Beef, Veal and Mutton.

(e) The Ullman Onion Bill introduced at the request of Onion Growers of Malheur County and Eastern Oregon.

(f) To enlist support for income on the more than four million acres of Federal (BLM) lands in Malheur county through which all roads are improved, maintained by the county. This would be revenues in a share of grasslands income from grazing fees in lieu of taxes.

Costs of This Trip Were Paid one-half from County Court Travel Funds and one-half from personal funds as evidenced by personal canceled checks and the account of expenses of the trip.

2. The court has never flown to the coast. On Sept. 23 the court engaged Casey Jones of the Ontario Flying Service to fly to Albany, Ore., to attend a meeting of county officials and inspect roads built over existing gravel and oiled at a cost of between three and four thousand dollars per mile.

Cost of the trip including all expenses was \$120 or lower in cost than the conventional travel by automobile, meals and lodging. The interest of Mr. Jones, in low cost construction of air strips for

Candidate Answers With Explanation

Ontario, Oregon
 October 14, 1964

Ellis A. White
 Malheur County Judge
 Vale, Oregon

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of Oct. 12, in regard to your error in stating publicly that I was a county commissioner at the time the court awarded Auditor Don Hosler a \$500 bonus, I am not accepting your apology, as I feel that if errors are made that easily with the records right before you on one thing, there could be other errors in our county business made just as easily.

In answer to what you called by "inconsistency" in my actions in voting a raise and new contract for Mr. Hosler at the time I was a commissioner, I want to remind you that at that time, the county was in the process of constructing Lytle Boulevard, putting

his crop-dusting operations, made this possible. To date the county has not been billed for the trip.

3. Your questions concerned with the honesty or veracity and need of the county auditor contained in your statement that he duplicates that which is done by other county officers is inconsistent to your actions as a member of the previous county court in view of the following facts:

(a) Over your signature and that of the previous county judge, G. Y. Chester, Don Hosler was re-appointed to a four-year term. This action on your part is recorded in the County Court Minutes in Book O and Page 327.

(b) As a member of the Budget Committee for the year 1958-59 the auditor's salary was raised \$500 and as a member of the 1960-61 Budget Committee his salary was again raised \$300.

These actions of which you participated indicate that as county commissioner you approved of and rewarded the auditor for his service and contribution to progressive county government. As a candidate you attempt to cast reflection on both the auditor and the office. This gives rise to two questions:

Were your actions as a member of the previous court mistakes in judgment? What is your motive for attacking the honesty of the auditor whom you approved of and re-appointed and raised his salary on two occasions?

A third question results from the two. What constructive proposals do you have to offer to the voters of Malheur county?

Sincerely,
 ELLIS A. WHITE
 Malheur County Judge

Writer Compares County Expenditures

Editor:
 Last week, I promised to show just one instance where our county court fails to economize. We complain that county budgets have increased sharply each year while farm economy continues to sag. Costs rise while farm income declines. Costs in county government soar while we continue to lose population. Something's cockeyed about the whole situation and the only hope the taxpayers have is to get some economy-minded public officials who will look at this situation realistically.

This spring, we sought an election to determine whether the people approved our county having an auditor's office. We are one of three in 36 counties with such an official. Many cannot understand why we must budget \$10,000 for this official when other counties save this expense. Mr. Flock immediately responded that the court would have to hire some deputy to do the work of the auditor if they did not have him. The county court endorses this extravagant office which forces county costs higher each year.

Why, then, can many counties the size of ours get along without an auditor? You'd think that the budgets of the clerk and treasurer offices in other counties would automatically be higher if we are to believe the county court. Well, take a look at some actual, current statistics gathered from five other counties about the same size in population and wealth as Malheur.

How do they get by without an auditor and still run these two key offices on a lower budget than we can administer them for? Here are the figures:

Columbia County 1963-64 1964-65	
Treasurer	\$ 6,203 \$ 6,354
Clerk	24,490 31,176
Totals	\$30,694 \$37,530

Hood River 1963-64 1964-65	
Treasurer	\$ 2,173 \$ 2,173
Clerk	26,615 25,187
Totals	\$28,788 \$27,360

Union County 1963-64 1964-65	
Treasurer	\$ 5,705 \$ 5,764
Clerk	20,025 21,090
Totals	\$25,730 \$26,855

Baker County 1963-64 1964-65	
Treasurer	\$ 5,979 \$ 6,450
Clerk	17,883 19,821
Totals	\$23,862 \$26,271

ing a bridge over the Owyhee river and building a new courthouse. The court felt at that time with the added duties of the purchasing agent for the new courthouse, justified a raise in salary for Mr. Hosler—which I might add, he earned, as he did a splendid job in keeping everything in order through the entire building of the new courthouse.

Now, regarding a retraction by me as to an error in the published budget figures; so far I have not been shown from figures I have received from the county court, that I was in error. In the figures I received and reported, I still maintain there has been an increase in county court expenditures of over 30 percent. The only error was that the increase was over a period of five years instead of four.

As to my proposals to the voters of Malheur county, I intend to help those voters in every way I can to reduce their taxes and stop all unnecessary spending in their county.

Sincerely,
 AMELL CLAUDE
 Rep. Candidate for
 County Commissioner



For UNICEF!
 The Program Designed — for —
Children to Help Other Children
 — on —
Halloween Night!
 (Watch the Journal for Details)

Wasco County 1963-64 1964-65	
Treasurer	\$ 6,310 \$ 6,390
Clerk	25,330 31,608
Totals	\$31,630 \$38,298

Now look at our own county and there's the proof of the pudding' . . .

Malheur 1963-64 1964-65	
Treasurer	\$ 5,700 \$ 5,700
Clerk	25,700 25,780
Auditor	9,075 9,125
Totals	\$40,475 \$40,605

Recently a group of conscientious citizens canvassed the county back in our hills to see what people thought of saving money, eliminating this unnecessary cost of county government. Over 825 signed petitions to have a vote on the matter. This opinion came from the grass roots. The county court rebuffed us, for our feelings and opinions on this matter.

It has not ended there because we feel the people should have the right to decide this issue once and for all. We can start now by making a few changes in the court house that will lend a sympathetic ear to our taxpayers and citizens.

The election is just a few weeks off. We need public officials who will consider the plight of our farm and cattle industry by economizing all along the line and saving taxes. One good place is in the auditor's office but no one in the court house recognizes this and still will refuse to look at figures like the ones submitted above.

These figures refute all the claims of the court that they just couldn't save here. We leave it to the people to decide.

FRED E. BURGESS
 Vale, Oregon

Church Ladies Plan November Activities

Methodist Woman's Society of Christian Service circles met Oct. 15 in various homes. Twelve members and one guest of the Lowery group met at the home of Mrs. Herke Stam with Mrs. Arie Bakker assisting. Mrs. Irma Meyers presented the program.

Mrs. Ralph Lawrence was hostess to 13 members of the Thelma Case circle. Mrs. Alfred Adams was program leader.

Marcia Ball members met at the home of Mrs. Earl Boston with 16 ladies in attendance. Mrs. Grace Hill was program leader for the group.

Program topic for the afternoon was "Ewha Women's university" in Korea, which is the largest women's university in the world.

Announcements included the study class on "Christian Responsibility and the New Nations" with meetings held at 8 o'clock on Sunday evenings and class at 9:30 on Monday mornings.

Annual bazaar and luncheon is slated for Nov. 21 and a Day of Prayer and Self-Denial service will be held at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon, Oct. 30.

Members of the evening circle met at the home of Mrs. Guy Sparks. Nine ladies were in attendance to hear the program presented by Mrs. John Huffman on "The Young American Mother—Who Is She?"

The group voted to adopt the "traveling basket" as a money-making project.

Local Teachers Feted At Fellowship Dinner In Methodist Church

"An Apple for the Teacher" was theme of the Oct. 14 fellowship event honoring Methodist school teachers. Small baskets of red and yellow apples decorated the tables for the potluck dinner. Mmes. Harold Kurtz, Donald Sappe and Alva Goodell served as hostesses for the evening.

Gene Chester introduced Murl Lancaster and Mmes. Leo Gonyer, Madge Thomson, Gladys Englehardt, W. L. McPartland, Dorothy Wilson and Ken Renstrom. Those formerly in the teaching profession were Mrs. Raymond Sager, Mrs. W. W. Foster, Mrs. Murl Lancaster, Mrs. James Stephen, Miss Myrtle Ilett and Dick Miller.

Guests having October birthday anniversaries were Douglas Lawrence, Mrs. Tom Morrow, Mrs. Irma Meyers, Mrs. W. W. Foster, Miss Ilett and Donald Sappe.

Mrs. Merilean Robbins was in charge of the program which followed the dinner. Seventy persons were in attendance for the evening of fellowship and entertainment.

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LDS Testimonial Service to Honor Young Missionary



ELDER JOHN M. BECK
 . . . To Serve in Brazil

Elder John Melvin Beck will be honored at a farewell testimonial service at 8 o'clock Sunday evening, Oct. 25, in Nyssa Second ward chapel on Alberta avenue. He has been called to serve a mission in Brazil for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Elder Beck is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Mel Beck of Nyssa. He was graduated from the local high school with the class of 1963 and attended Brigham Young university at Provo, Utah, for one year.

The young missionary will attend a special 12-week language course at BYU, after which his address will be Caixa Postal 862, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Friends of Elder Beck and his family are invited to attend the Sunday evening farewell service.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S GROUP HOLDS GENERAL MEETING

General meeting of the Christian Women's Fellowship group was held Oct. 20 at the church with Mrs. Ed Pruyn as hostess.

Mrs. J. W. Rigney spoke to the group on "Spanish-Speaking Disciples."

GIRL SCOUT TROOP PLANS SATURDAY TRIP TO BOISE

Girl Scout troop 99 met at the home of Mrs. Wilton Jackson on Oct. 14 when plans were discussed for a rededication ceremony to be held at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 2 in the Jackson residence.

Members of the troop plan to go to Boise Saturday, Oct. 24, to work on their emergency preparedness challenge project. The girls plan to have a picnic lunch and to visit places of interest in the Idaho capital city.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 28, in the Jackson home. —Barbara Tensen, Scribe.

Adrian Session Held To Plan Youth Rally

A Presbyterian Youth council meeting was held Sunday afternoon at the Adrian Community church with 35 young people and two adults present. The youths came from Boise, Caldwell, Nampa, Weiser, Roswell and Parma. Plans were completed for a youth rally to be held Nov. 15 at Adrian.

Miss Ruth Grob of the College of Idaho will be guest speaker. Her subject will be "Communism's Challenge to Christianity." She attended the Sunday afternoon meeting to help the young people plan discussion sessions which will follow her talk at the rally.

On Friday, Oct. 23, a Presbyterian meeting will be held at Parma beginning at 9:30 a.m. Those attending are asked to take a sack lunch. Coffee will be provided.

LUTHERAN CHURCH GROUP PLANS PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The Forty-Niners group of Faith Lutheran church will meet at 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon at the church and will go in a body to three homes for a progressive dinner, with program to follow.

According to Pastor John Milbrath, the group will first go to the Andrew Ekanger home for a salad course, then to the Oscar Kurtz residence for 2 o'clock dinner. They will then return to the church parsonage for 3 o'clock dessert and the program.

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