

# Heaviest One-Day Snowfall in Forty Years Blankets Heppner

After reeling under the heaviest snowfall for a 24-hour period in 40 years, Heppner residents were regaining normalcy early this week, dinging out over the week-end and shoving the snow aside.

Starting after 7 p.m. Friday, the snow gained momentum during the night and ended with 10 1/2 inches on the ground Saturday, according to Don Gilliam, official weather observer.

This was the heaviest snowfall for a 24-hour period since January 22, 1929, when 11 1/2 inches fell. That snow is immortalized in the amazing panoramic photograph taken by the late B. G. (Bert) Sigbee, prints of which are located in various places around town, and one framed print of which hangs in The Gazette-Times office.

However, the 1929 snow was not the record for a 24-hour period. The greatest for any such

period recorded was on December 10, 1919, when 12 inches fell, Gilliam reports. Figures are taken from the recent climatological survey compiled for Heppner by Gilbert Sternes, state climatologist. On February 12, 1923, there was a snowfall of 11 inches.

Old-timers will recall other snows which they will vow were greater, but the total didn't all come within a 24-hour period. The most snow on the ground at any one time within modern history was 23 inches on February 3, 1916, Gilliam states.

**1915-16 Totals 65.25 inches**

Total snowfall in the winter of 1915-16 was recorded at 65.25 inches, and total for the memorable winter of 1949-50 was 46.4 inches. Back in 1922-23 the total for the winter was 41.75 inches.

This winter has already made a strong start on snow but has

a long way to go to rank with the record years. To date, the season has brought 25.9 inches of snow, Gilliam reports.

Saturday's snowfall was truly wet, with the moisture content measured at .95 inch for the 10 1/2 inches, the observer said.

During the day Saturday, weather cleared and temperature climbed to 41 degrees, creating somewhat of a carnival atmosphere around town as kids went sledding, built snowmen and igloos, and engaged in snowball fights.

Most popular sports for adults were those of enjoying the scenery, clearing walks and driveways, and trying to free autos to get from place to place.

**Phone Service Out**

Others had problems with the snow that were not fun. Dale Slusher, manager of Pacific Northwest Bell for this district, said that Heppner's long distance telephone service was out from 9:15 a.m. until 10:18 a.m. Saturday after weight of the heavy wet snow broke several lines, snapped crossarms and even brought down some telephone poles.

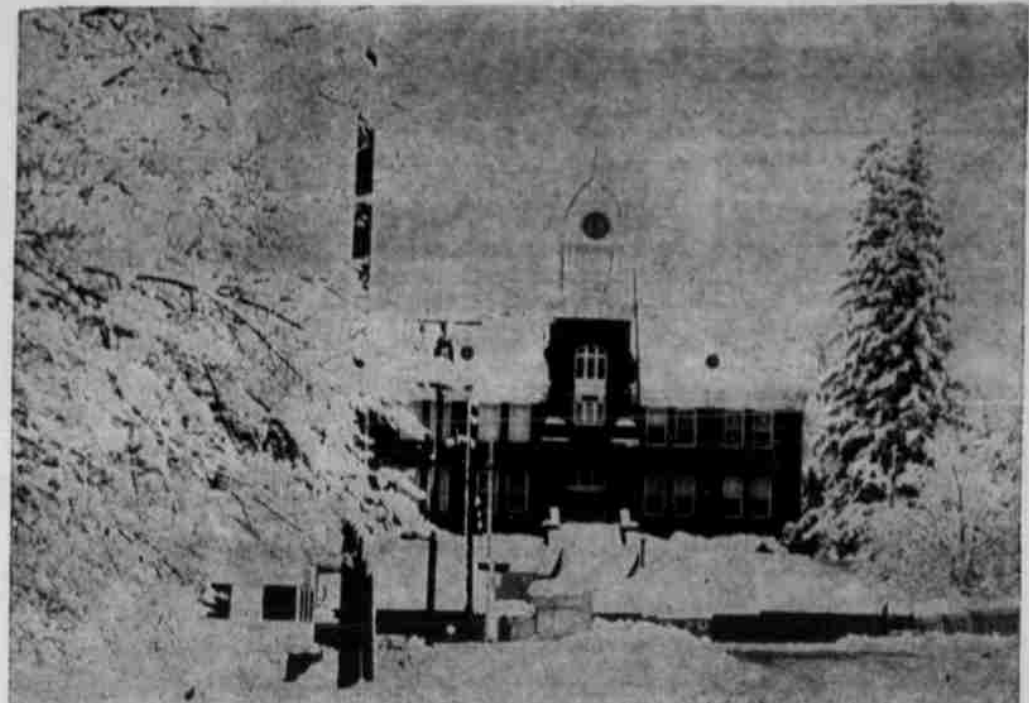
The city was isolated from communication by phone from the rest of the world for that period. Slusher said that the company is required to arrange for emergency service in such an eventuality but regular service was restored by telephone crews before this could be done.

Ione also had an interruption but for a shorter period. This was for 14 minutes. The outage did not affect local calls.

Company crews continued working all day Saturday and Sunday to repair damage.

**Power Men Work, Too**

Columbia Basin Electric Co-op also had line troubles from the (Continued on page 8)



SNOW-COVERED trees enhance the venerable Morrow county courthouse. (G-T Photo).

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## THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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### Port Negotiating State Land Exchange

Some eight years of negotiations are expected to be culminated soon when the Port of Morrow and the State Land Board complete a trade of some 2250 acres of land in the north end of the county, Gar Swanson, secretary of the commission, said Tuesday.

Completion of the transaction, which will add 2250 acres to the block of land that the commission has between the Columbia River and Interstate Highway 1-80N, was expected to be Tuesday afternoon at a meeting in Boardman with State Land Board officials. However, they were unable to make the trip, and final negotiations will be made by Attorney E. Wayne Cordes, representing the commission, and the Land Board. Valued at \$97,000.

Swanson said that the transaction may be completed by the first of next week. Value of the block of land that the Port of Morrow will receive in the exchange is placed at \$97,000. In trade, the state will receive a block of about 2250 acres of desert land lying east of the Bomb Range Road and some distance south of Highway 80N.

The Port will pay a difference of approximately \$11,000.

When the newly acquired lands are deeded to the Port, it will have some 3650 acres for industry and development extending from the riverfront to the Interstate highway. A section

### Pacific Lutheran Band to Play Here

The 70-piece band of Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, will play a concert in Heppner on Sunday evening, January 26, at 8 p.m. in the Heppner junior high auditorium.

Appearance of the touring band here is sponsored by Hope and Vaiby Lutheran churches. Admission will be \$1 for adults and 50c for students. Luther Leagues of the two local churches will sell tickets in advance. They also may be purchased at the door.

Some time ago the two local churches sponsored a concert of the choir of the university, and the singers had an excellent response here.

Further announcement on their forthcoming appearance will be made next week.

### Dr. Jones to Join Hermiston Center

Dr. and Mrs. Gerald A. Jones and family are making plans to move to their new residence in Hermiston during the coming week. Dr. Jones is terminating his services at the Heppner Clinic and will begin practice at Hermiston Medical Center, with Doctors Milton Johnson and Wendell Ford, on Monday, January 20. Dr. Jones has served the Heppner area the past two years.

New home address for Dr. and Mrs. Jones will be Route 1, Box 296-B, in Hermiston, and Mrs. Jones will continue to keep records of their Heppner patients at their home office.

### Injured in Fall

Dr. A. D. McMurdo remains hospitalized in St. Anthony hospital in Pendleton, where he was taken last Wednesday for treatment of four broken ribs which he received in a fall while walking on icy pavement downtown. Mrs. McMurdo reports that he is showing satisfactory improvement, and is in room 427.



PRINCESS RHONDA JEAN BELLINGER

### Rhonda Bellinger Is New Princess For Rodeo Court

For the first time in several years, the community of Irrigon will be represented by a princess on the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo court.

Miss Rhonda Jean Bellinger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward N. Bellinger of Irrigon, has been selected for the court by the Boardman Tilikum club, and will succeed Kathy Hinton, princess in the 1968 court.

The blond, attractive miss was born in Pendleton and will reach her 17th birthday on April 2. She attended the A. C. Houghton elementary school, and is now in her junior year at Riverside High school. She participates in activities of the school's Girls' Athletic Association and is a member of the Pep Club. Rhonda has developed her talents as an artist, and following high school graduation, hopes to continue her studies in college.

Hours outside of school for Princess Rhonda are given to her favorite sport, riding. She has ridden for pleasure since a small child, and owns her own horse, "Major", half Arabian and half quarterhorse, which she will use for court appearances. She helps her parents on their ranch, located between Irrigon and Boardman, where they grow melons and raise cattle.

Both of Rhonda's parents are graduates of Hermiston High school and have lived in the area all of their lives except for a short time when they lived south of Hood River. The grandparents still reside in Hermiston. Only other member of Rhonda's family is an older sister, Mrs. Graham (Deanna) Derbyshire, a sophomore at Eastern Oregon College in La Grande.

Other princesses chosen for the 1969 court of Queen Sheila Luciani are Princess Patti Healy of the Lena community, and Princess Joyce Howton, sponsored by the Willows Grange of Ione.

### Mustangs to Open League Hoop Year Against Rockets

(See Page Four)

Opening their league season, the HHS Mustangs meet the Pilot Rock Rockets Friday night in a Greater Oregon league basketball game in the Mustang gym. The Mustangs bring an 8-2 record into the game, while the Rockets have not fared so well.

Saturday night the Mustangs host the Burns Union Hilanders. The Rockets should prove to be tough for the Mustang cagers with Vic Riebeck and Larry Matthews providing good scoring punch. Jim McMahon, Larry Brannon and Bill Quemptz round out a well-balanced starting five. Pilot Rock has been tough so far this season but have not been able to put together as many wins as was expected of them at the start.

Heppner, now tied for eighth in the Oregon A-2 poll, has lost to Grant Union and Ione. The Horsemen have also won a game against each of these teams. Both of the losses were to good teams by narrow margins, and it is the general consensus that the Mustangs played well against Ione but were lax against Grant Union.

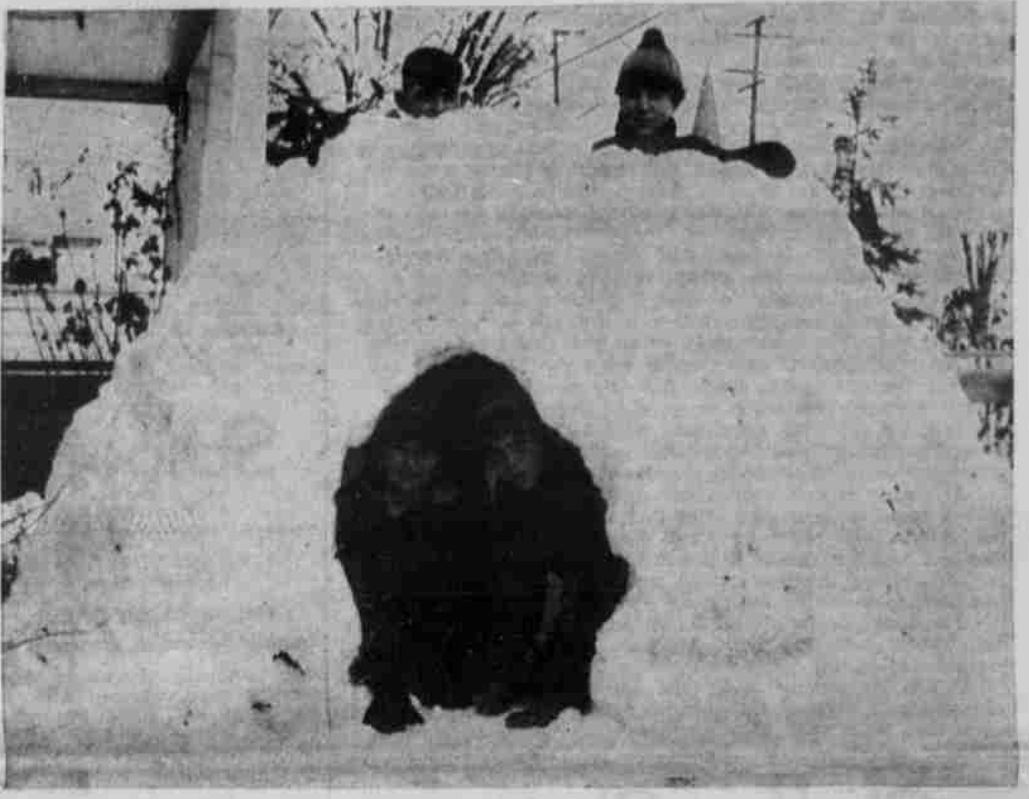
The local hoopsters will be looking for the second win when they encounter Burns. They defeated the Hilanders earlier this year at Burns, 59-48.

Saturday's contest will be a non-league game, as Burns is in the eastern half of the league.

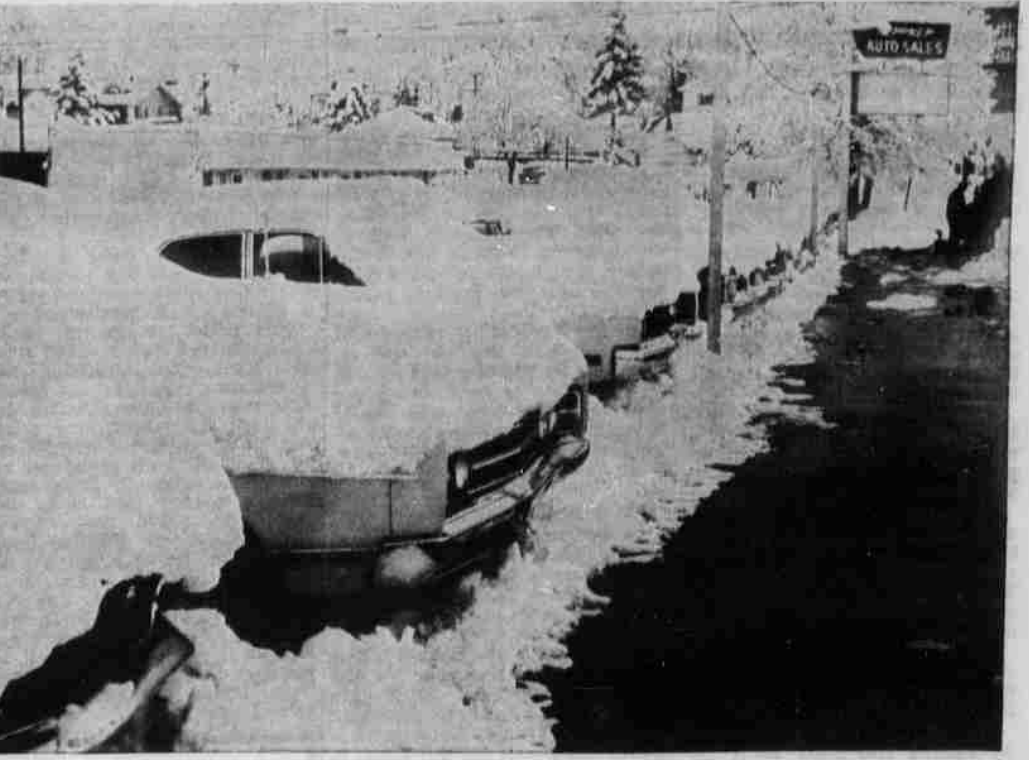
### Wildlife Film Set For Public Showing Here Next Week

"Eastern Oregon Wildlife" is subject of a 90-minute color film which will be shown Wednesday evening, January 22, at 7:30 p.m., at the Morrow county fair pavilion. Members of the Two Trackers 4-H club will sponsor the film, and invite persons of all ages to attend. Admission for an entire family will be \$3.00, or adults, \$1.50, students, 75c, and children under six, free.

The film will show a wide variety of wildlife in Eastern Oregon which is not often seen by the casual traveler. The wildlife, photographed by Wilcox Bros. of Vale, are shown in their natural habitat in the Malheur Bird Refuge, at Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge and in the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area. Varieties of wildlife will include deer, elk, antelope, mountain sheep, sand hill cranes, trumpeter swans, coyotes, and others. The public is urged to attend.



FOUR BOYS built an igloo. They are (below) David Schwarzin and Dwain Wolfe, and (standing) Jack Unrein and Robert Wolfe. Crown of the igloo was yet to be completed when the photo was taken at the Rev. Robert Wolfe residence. (G-T Photo).



BLANKETS of snow covered autos at the Heppner Auto Sales lot. (G-T Photo).



JIM LOVGREN home nestles snugly behind snow-laden trees and shrubbery. (G-T Photo).

### Ullman Sponsors Gun Act Repeal

Congressman Al Ullman is sponsoring legislation to repeal the restrictions placed on ammunition sales and purchases by the Firearms Control Act of 1968. Ullman called the ammunition record-keeping provisions "unwise and burdensome."

Ullman introduced a bill Friday, January 3, which asks the 91st Congress to delete references to ammunition from the new gun control law, which went into effect December 16.

He said the controversial regulations requiring detailed records of all ammunition sales have become "a burden and a hardship on legitimate dealers and purchasers of ammunition throughout the Western and Southern states."

**COMING BASKETBALL**

Friday, January 17—Pilot Rock at Heppner; Riverside at Ione.

Saturday, January 18—Burns at Heppner; Ione at Weston.

### Mothers March Slated Monday Night in County

Mothers throughout Morrow county will be out doing their share to wage the war on crippling polio and birth defects as they join forces Monday night, January 20, for the annual Mothers March on behalf of the March of Dimes.

Mothers will start their march at 5 p.m., and will call door-to-door in Heppner, Lexington, Ione, Irrigon and Boardman to collect donations which will be turned over to the National Foundation to be used in the fight against birth defects.

Director for the Morrow county chapter of the March of Dimes is Mrs. Len Ray Schwarz, whose efforts have produced a well organized county campaign

in this year's annual fund raising drive.

Assisting Mrs. Schwarz are Mrs. Elwayne Bergstrom and Mrs. Bob Bergstrom, co-directors; Mrs. Bruce Griffith, chairman of the Heppner Mothers March; Mrs. Matt Hughes, publicity chairman; Mrs. Eddie Gundersen, Morrow county treasurer for the March of Dimes; and Sandy Matheny, Heppner high school student, chairman of TAP, program for teenagers.

Chairman for the Ione Mothers March will be Mrs. Ralph Kincaid, and Lexington chairman is Mrs. Ed Baker. In Irrigon and Boardman, members of the Catholic Altar Society will join forces to canvas these areas for contributions.

Goals of the 1969 campaign are to inform the general public of the necessity of proper medical checkups during pregnancy and to aid those children already born who are suffering from birth defects. To do this effectively a goal of \$900 for January March of Dimes activities throughout Morrow county is being sought.

In the past, contributions from the March of Dimes have helped to conquer polio and in the future substantial contributions to the National Foundation will eventually lead to a reduction in the number of children born with birth defects.

In announcing the TAP San-

dy says, "January is March of Dimes month, so be sure to bring your change to the Burns game Saturday night, as the cheer leaders have agreed to 'pass the blanket,' during halftime activities of the game. Please come and donate to this very important cause."

**Gienger in Vietnam**

Army Private First Class Wilfred L. Gienger, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Archie J. Gienger, Monument, was assigned to the 22nd Artillery near An Khe, Vietnam, November 23 as a mechanic, the Army Home Town News Center reports.