

# Come and Visit the New Western Cities in the Making

## HEPPNER SCHOOL SYSTEM MODERN IN EVERY RESPECT

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With equal justice they demand that the money they devote to school purposes shall be efficiently expended; that waste of all kinds shall be eliminated and that the community shall receive full value for its educational investment.

Commercially considered the public schools of Heppner are one of the largest institutions in the county, their annual expenditure being about \$37,000; they have a working personnel of 18 people, and their invested capital will run close to \$100,000. Of the annual budget voted by the taxpayers, some \$24,000 is devoted to the payment of teachers and employees; about \$4,000 to the retirement of outstanding bonds, and the remaining amount to the various details incident to the school year.

This annual budget is raised on an assessed valuation of \$1,360,387, making the annual school tax stand at about 15.8 mills.

The total bonded indebtedness of the district at the present time is \$56,500.00 of which \$36,500 is for the present school building and \$20,000 for the auditorium-gymnasium. Under the present financial policy of the board of directors, these bonds are being retired serially at the rate of about \$4,000 a year. By this scheme the bonds are paid off in due time, the interest is paid regularly and promptly, many thousands of dollars in interest are saved the district, and at no time is the burden to the taxpayers excessively heavy. This policy of repayment was inaugurated by the board of directors in 1925, largely through the efforts of the late Mr. C. E. Woodson, who was then a member of the board.

In keeping with this plan, the bonds for the auditorium-gymnasium will be retired by the same schedule, so that the school levy, by reason of the repayment policy, will at no time exceed an increase of 1.3 mills.

The last named building was erected at a cost of \$23,200. It contains an auditorium, seating six hundred people; a gymnasium with a playing floor 70 by 50 feet; shower rooms, and a room devoted to the school library.

The auditorium is equipped with a velvet curtain and cyclorama stage settings; provision has also been made for the installation of a complete motion picture outfit.

The school plant is now adequate to accommodate all normal increases in attendance for several years. By moving the library and music departments from the school building to the auditorium, two rooms have been made available for the expansion of the grades and high school. During the first of the present school year the increase in the school population was felt rather acutely, and as a result some of the lower grade rooms were rather crowded. This condition, however, will not recur again, as there is now sufficient room to house all departments without overcrowding.

The school is organized, for instructional purposes, upon the eight-year plan, the first eight grades being grouped together in the grade system, and the remaining four comprising the high school.

The attendance of the grade schools, during the past five years has varied from 380 to 410, requiring the services of eight or nine teachers.

At the head of the grade system is the grade principal, who is also the eighth grade teacher. In addition to his regular duties as eighth grade teacher, the grade principal handles all major cases of school discipline, and directs all grade athletics.

The course of study prescribed by the state of Oregon for elementary schools is carefully followed, being supplemented by a large amount of collateral work.

Standard Education and achievement tests are used in their respective spheres to determine the capacities and progress of the pupils. By this means a continual scientific check is kept upon the student, and his progress is carefully charted from his very first entrance into the school system.

Repeated tests and surveys taken within the school reveal the fact that the standards of the Heppner grade schools are unusually high—all of the grades doing work well in advance of their actual requirements.

Beginning with the new semester a carefully graded course of physical education will be used throughout the entire school system. It will be the endeavor of this course to raise the average physique in the entire system—both grade and high school. In complete fulfillment of the requirements of the Oregon school law, twenty minutes of physical exercise per day is required of all students in the public schools, who are not physically incapacitated to take this work. Classes will recite in the gymnasium at stated periods, and the work of each group will be suited to its particular development.

As a branch of physical education, organized athletics have, for the past two years, been an important feature of the Heppner grade schools. Football, baseball, basketball, track and volleyball teams are organized and carry out a full playing

ing schedule under the direction of the grade principal.

It has been the endeavor of the administration to interest as many pupils as possible in these games. All those who have either the time or the opportunity are urged to participate in these competitive activities, for they have an educational value that is too important to discount.

While the work of the high school is greatly similar to that of the grades, its work is naturally more highly specialized than that of the lower department.

Like the grade system, it is presided over by a principal who has charge of routine discipline, organization, and who directs athletics.

Among the first high schools in the state to standardize according to the regulations of the department of education, Heppner high school has long enjoyed the reputation of being one of the best schools of its size in Oregon.

The state course of study for high schools is used as a guide for the instructional work of the school, although there has been a consistent effort on the part of the administration to bring the curriculum closer to the life of the community; to study its needs and desires, and to equip the pupils to meet them.

The function of the modern high schools of the nation is no longer purely college preparatory—as a matter of fact, a relatively large percentage of high school pupils never go to college. It is, therefore, entirely logical, to prepare these young people to meet the issues of life outside of college as well as within it.

A thorough groundwork of English and social science is demanded of every pupil in high school, the administration feeling that the usages of good citizenship require a working knowledge of correct English, as well as some information as to the conditions of society and the functions of government.

Accompanying this, and running parallel to it, is a course in high school mathematics. It being felt that a certain background of knowledge in the fundamentals of higher mathematical calculation is almost a necessity in the modern world.

A commercial department is maintained in the high school for two reasons. In the first place, a knowledge of the elementary principles of bookkeeping is almost a necessity in every branch of modern industry or life. The systematic keeping of accounts, whether they are merely those of personal income, or whether they are those of an industrial concern, is a matter requiring scientifically accurate training, and wherever the student goes, he finds a demand for some knowledge of elementary accountancy.

More than 98 percent of all modern business letters are written on typewriters, and the pupil who goes forth into any branch of trade or industry, soon meets with the necessity of knowing how to handle a typewriter.

A department of domestic arts and sciences is also maintained for the benefit of those pupils who wish such instruction. This department is not merely a place where the pupils try out recipes and work out patterns. In domestic science the scientific qualities of foods are taught; diet and nutrition occupy important places in the curriculum, and the important relationships between good food and good health are taught.

Those girls interested in domestic arts not only learn how to make practical clothing for themselves, but they also study the more sensible types of dress, the aim of the department being not only to teach sewing, but also to teach the real art of beautiful dressing.

In this way, as much as it is possible, the two functions of the high school—college preparatory and life preparatory—are served, and the results are showing that this instruction is efficient.

Students who have done their college preparatory work in Heppner high school are now enrolled in every institution of higher education in the Pacific northwest, and without exception they are making good; while those pupils who did not go on to college are taking responsible places in the business and industrial world, and are filling them with credit to themselves and to their school.

A special feature of the public school system of Heppner that deserves particular comment, is the school library. During the past three years this has been completely reorganized; recatalogued, and enlarged. With the completion of the auditorium-gymnasium it was divided into two parts, and all but the reference works were transferred to a room in the new building, where they are under the charge of a librarian.

The library is particularly rich in its collection of government documents relating to all phases of life in the northwest.

The reports of the Geological, Coast and Geodetic Surveys; Forestry and Industrial Surveys, and statistical studies from the department of Commerce are to be found in this collection, which also embraces the annual year books of all departments of the national government, as well as the Blue Books and Legislative handbooks for many of the states of the union.

Special library appropriations on the part of the board of directors insure the regular and steady growth of this important part of the educational plant.

Generally speaking, the growth of the Heppner public schools, while not rapid, has been steady, and with the completion of the splendid highway system throughout the county, more and more of the rural districts are sending their children in to town to attend school. The many advantages of a larger and more elaborately equipped system, coupled with an actual reduction in expense, make such action



Photo by Boggs Studio and Sigsbee

1, Elk's Building, Star Theater and Curran & Barr on lower floor; 2, Modern Hotel Building with Farmers & Stockgrowers National Bank and Frank W. Turner occupying lower floor; 3, Main Street Scenes, showing Patterson & Son Drug Store, Gonty's Shoe Store and M. D. Clark General Merchandise Store; 4, Masonic Building with Hiatt & Dix Grocery and Wilson's Men's Store occupying lower floor; 5, First National Bank Building; 6, Thomson Brothers' General Merchandise Store.

the logical move.

A glance at the following statistical table, showing the assessed valuation, the annual millage levy, the school population and the per capita cost of education, during a period of eight years will do much to give a clear insight into the development of the present public school system.

TABLE SHOWING SCHOOL FINANCES FOR LAST 7 YEARS

Year	Assessed Valuation	Annual Millage Tax	School Population	Per Capita Cost	Bonded Indebtedness
1920-1921	\$1,275,264.00	14.5	378	\$143.90	\$56,500.00
1921-1922	1,295,472.00	22.1	367	179.60	40,828.64
1922-1923	1,292,406.00	20.1	378	175.00	48,000.00
1923-1924	1,287,880.00	20.1	401	140.62	57,500.00
1924-1925	1,304,753.00	17.4	425	203.26	54,000.00
1925-1926	1,303,409.00	17.4	542	157.41	43,000.00
1926-1927	1,331,001.00	15.7	522	142.50	39,000.00
1927-1928	1,360,387.00	15.6	497	211.07	58,000.00

Morrow County  
Wants  
More Farmers

### HUMPHREY'S DRUG CO. IS OLDEST FIRM

Humphrey's Drug company is today one of the most complete and best stocked of its kind in this section. This is owned and operated by T. J. Humphreys who has been connected with this line of business at Heppner for more than 30 years. Twenty years ago he took over and consolidated the former Slocum Drug company and Heppner Drug company, creating the present store which he has conducted with every success since. It bears the distinction of being the oldest business of

its kind continuously in operation here.

All usual drug and sundry lines are carried with the usual array of books, stationery, magazines and school supplies.

The prescription department, a most important feature of any drug store, is supervised by experienced registered pharmacists and the public is assured of every care and accuracy in their prescription work.

Mr. and Mrs. Humphreys, who are both prominent in social and business circles of this section, are ever to be found on the job looking after the wants of their many patrons.

## The Big Department Store of Morrow County

# Thomson Bros.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

HEPPNER, OREGON

CARRYING THE LARGEST STOCKS OF GENERAL MERCHANDISE OF ANY ESTABLISHMENT IN THE COUNTY

FOR 25 YEARS we have served the trade of this section with quality merchandise correctly priced. Our business has grown and prospered through according our patrons a square deal and ever standing for those things that would have a tendency to advance our mutual interests.

BUY IT AT HOME—When you are patronizing the home business firms you are serving your own best interests. It is the home merchant who ever contributes most to community progress.

GROCERIES, DRY GOODS, READY-TO-WEAR CLOTHING FOR WOMEN, MEN AND BOYS  
SHOES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

See the New Arrivals for Spring and Summer Wear  
EVER BOOSTERS FOR MORROW COUNTY