

Heppner Gazette Times

Volume 50, Number 12.

HEPPNER, OREGON, THURSDAY, May 31, 1934.

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FLOOD DAMAGE HEAVY

CLOUDBURST HITS IN SOUTHERN HILLS

Large Body of Water From Balm Creek Inundates City.

RHEA CREEK SWEEPED

Heppner People Cleared From Path by Siren; Much Property Damage Reported.

Willow creek became a mad, raging, muddy torrent through Heppner at 4:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, overflowing its banks and inundating much of the city, as it was fed from the run-off of a cloudburst which hit several miles to the southeast. The large flow of water came down Balm creek into Willow.

Warned by a telephone message from R. A. Thompson, Mayor Anderson caused the fire siren to be sounded half an hour before the water arrived, and all people were cleared from the water's path. The water, nevertheless, left a trail of devastation in its wake as it wrecked hay fields, washed away haystacks and animals, crushed light structures in its path, swept into other buildings, and over streets and lawns, strewn its course with silt and wreckage.

The flood water poured through Morrow County Creamery company's plant to a depth of three feet, doing damage estimated at \$1000. Replacement of bridges and other repair work will run into several thousand dollars more, while it is impossible to arrive at an estimate of the loss of hay and damage to hay fields. Wightman Bros. at Alfalfa Lawn Dairy lost half of the best crop of hay they have had in years, and their's was but one of the farms so hit.

An equal or even heavier flow of water than that from Balm creek swept down Rhea creek, and heavy flows also ran down upper Willow creek and Hinton creek.

On Rhea creek the approach to the steel bridge at the Rugg place was washed out, the grange hall was swept from its foundation and turned around, sheep sheds and a small house or two were carried away, and fields generally damaged.

Heppner residents were put on restricted water rations immediately as the supply from the well was cut off by two washouts in the lead main, one at the mouth of Balm creek and the other at the Kelley farm, leaving only the water in the reservoir to serve the city. W. E. Pruyn, watermaster, saved the reservoir water by closing a stop gate above town, when he saw that the lead main was threatened. Crews were put to work early yesterday morning to get the line repaired as soon as possible. Until the line is repaired, citizens have been asked to use only as much water as is necessary for domestic purposes.

If everyone is careful not to waste any water, Mr. Pruyn believed the supply would be adequate for 48 hours and it was hoped to have the breaks repaired by then.

ably sustained on Rhea creek, where the creek spread out from hill to hill. Fred Hoskins lost 100 head of purebred sheep, all of his hay crop, dams and dykes, and other damage estimated to total \$2500. McNamer and Thompson lost between 65 and 70 tons of hay, besides damage to dams and dykes, and a considerable number of turkeys. Similar losses have been reported all the way from the mouth of Road creek to the mouth of Rhea creek at the Laxton McMurray farm.

The flood waters from Willow and Rhea creeks reached this spot just four minutes apart at an early hour yesterday morning, spreading out wide over the valley and making a sight to behold, onlookers say. But when the water got to Lone it did not overflow the dykes along the creek. Lexington was flooded up as far as the Howard Lane store, the water filling some basements, but the damage was reported as slight there.

From Lone toward the river, the water was confined well within the creek, and lower creek ranchers were preparing to welcome the opportunity to give thirsty fields a drink. The flood waters had just reached the county line as the train passed that point coming up the branch yesterday morning.

Ross Langdon, who came from the Bliss Hottman mill yesterday morning, reported that the heaviest fall of water probably took place on the divide between Little Balm creek and Rhea creek where the mill is located. He said it rained so hard there for a time that it almost suffocated one to stick his head out the door. Coming down the Road canyon, the road was badly washed. He had learned from someone on the way that some 40 or 50 head of Frank Wilkinson's sheep that were being trailed up Rhea creek had been lost. Much of the new grade on the Rhea creek road was also wrecked, he said.

A large amount of water came down Skinner creek into Willow creek, also, reported Adam Blahny, in town yesterday from out that way. He lost some hay and had some damage to fields, but was not badly damaged. Much rock had been washed into the Willow creek road, he said, and there was evidence of considerable damage to the Bruce Kelley farm by rocks being washed in on it. Frank Wilkinson and W. H. Cleveland, other upper Willow creek farmers sustained some damage, though they considered it would not be large.

Several automobiles and a truck were caught in the path of the flood and carried quite a distance before becoming lodged. One old car was picked up in front of the Russell Wright garage, turned around slowly and precisely as if it had a driver, and moved about two blocks to be parked neatly beside the Henry Cohn residence at the lower end of Main street. Another queer incident similar in nature occurred on Rhea creek when the water picked up a haystack belonging to Ed Rugg and moved it intact across the highway and set it down neatly in the field of his neighbor, Clyde Wright. Mr. Wright's sheepshed crumpled up and fell into the water as if it were made of matches.

Only a moderately heavy rain occurred at Heppner at the time of the cloudburst, and there was little to indicate that such a volume of water was on its way, except that some people were suspicious of the large, dark, yellowish-cast cloud off to the southeast. S. E. Notson reported watching the cloud and having remarked that it seemed to indicate a large hail storm. Such proved to be the case, as reports from the mountains said there was as much as five inches of hail fall in some sections.

There was much damage to roads and telephone lines generally in the section covered by the cloudburst. The railroad and highways out of Heppner were not affected, however, and the local branch train made its usual run last night and this morning.

Several crews were put to work in town this morning clearing up the wreckage, with several weeks work in prospect before the town will present anything like a normal appearance. First concern of city dads who had a special meeting Tuesday night was to clear out dead livestock from the debris and get them buried. Several hogs, sheep, chickens and other livestock were found in the wreckage in town.

HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 25 IS GRADUATED

Judge Sweek Gives Address at Colorful Commencement.

WHLON CUP WINNER

Norton Winnard Memorial Award Made by Class of '18, Boys Out-number Girl Graduates.

Heppner high school graduated one of its largest classes at the commencement exercises held at the gym-auditorium last Thursday evening, an occasion appropriately recognized with a colorful display of seasonal flowers, with an inspiring address by Judge Calvin L. Sweek of Pendleton, and with beautiful music. A striking feature was the predominance of young men in the class, with 17 young men among the total of 25 graduates reversing the ratio of boys to girls general in past years.

The graduates are Frank Anderson, Rachel Anglin, Harold R. Ayers, Owen N. Bleakman, Reese Burkenbine, Kathleen Cunningham, Ralph Curran, Mary Driscoll, Le Roy Gentry, Marvin M. Morgan, Miriam Moyer, Florence Moyer, Gustaf E. Nikander, Francis Byron Nickerson, Marion Oviatt, Alice Bleakman Peterson, Claire Phelan, Anson E. Rugg, George W. Starr, George Wm. Thomson, Curtis Thomson, Anabel M. Turner, Arlin Chester Wilson, Beth Isabelle Wright, Harold A. Wright. The class motto is "Sail On," its colors, orange and silver, and its flower, red rosebuds.

Judge Sweek was introduced by Edward F. Bloom, superintendent, who took time to say that there was no malice of forethought in the arrangement of the program which revealed "Thanks Be to God" as the song number immediately following the address of the judge. In his address, Judge Sweek developed his theme, leading the class out from their commencement as one who undertakes a long and important journey, and encouraged the young people to continue on in the pursuit of those lines of endeavor best suited to each and that would produce for them the greater degree of success and happiness in life. The address was well pointed, instructive and entertaining.

Another prominent feature was the announcement of the winner of the Norton Winnard memorial cup award for the year to Armin Chester Whilon. Earl W. Gordon, a member of the class of '18, sponsor of the cup, made the presentation. The honor of winning the cup, signifying outstanding traits of leadership and personality, is a prize to be highly esteemed. Mr. Whilon received the hearty congratulations of his classmates, the faculty and patrons of the school.

The program opened with invocation by Joel R. Benton who also said benediction. "The Builder," Cadman, sung by Anabel M. Turner; "Thanks Be to God," Dickson, sung by the high school glee clubs were the musical numbers. Mr. Bloom presented the class, and W. C. Cox, chairman of the board of directors, presented the diplomas.

Memorial Services Off As City Starts Cleanup

Memorial services planned to be held here yesterday by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary were called off as the flood of Tuesday and its eventualities took precedence over all other events. Remembrance of war dead with decoration of graves was not neglected, however, and many folks from far and near visited the cemetery.

During the day many folks from over the county found time to come to town to inspect the flood damage and a true neighborly spirit was shown in the proffer of services to help clear away the debris.

HEPPNER LOSES AGAIN. Heppner's Wheatland league team took it on the chin again in last Sunday's game on the local field, when Condon came out on top of the 12-11 score. The home boys go to Condon next Sunday for a return game. Following are the team standings with two of last Sunday's games unreported.

VISITORS SPEAK AT LIONS CLUB

Allotment Inspection Explained at Meeting Held at Hotel Heppner Monday Noon.

Prof. Gilmore of the engineering department at Oregon State college explained the purpose and procedure of the allotment inspection soon to be made in Morrow county, at the Monday noon luncheon of the Lions club held at Hotel Heppner. Professor Gilmore emphasized the importance of the inspection work and stated that a check-up on allotment acreage measurements was a part of the program being undertaken. This work involves no little time and labor and the speaker told of a method of land measurement in which airplanes and cameras are used, which he said was much more efficient than any other method yet devised. Prof. Gilmore, with E. R. Jackman, farm crops specialist at the college, was in the city the first of the week for the purpose of holding a training school for the wheat allotment inspectors. Mr. Jackman entertained the club with a story, J. Logie Richardson of the Heppner Abstract company, another visitor, told a story and expressed appreciation for the hospitality of the club.

Deputy District Governor Martin of The Dalles made an official visit to the club and urged attendance at the state convention to be held in Eugene June 3, 4 and 5. Since there are but two clubs in this district, at The Dalles and Heppner, and since the district deputy governor has been from the club at The Dalles for the past two years, Mr. Martin suggested that a member of the Heppner club be put in the position for the coming year. He stated that The Dalles had strong hopes of landing the state convention for 1935, and asked the cooperation of the local club in its efforts to secure the meeting.

S. E. Notson called attention to the Bonneville seagoose meeting being held at The Dalles today and urged attendance of a good representation from Heppner. Chas. Thomson and Jap Crawford were elected as alternate delegates to the state convention.

Club Leader Defends Women in Business

Discrimination against women in business because of their sex or against married women because of their marriage is the result of "half-baked" thinking and is "unsound and un-American."

That, at least, is what Mrs. Geline MacDonald Bowman of Richmond, Va., thinks about it, and Mrs. Bowman as president of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women, one of the world's largest organizations of women in business fields, ought to know.

The national president was in Portland last week to attend the annual convention of the Oregon federation, which closed its meeting Saturday.

"Efficiency and aptitude, not one's marital state, should be the rod by which an individual is measured," Mrs. Bowman asserts. "We have no more right to tell the married woman that she shall not work than to tell the wealthy man to withdraw his sons from a highly competitive business world because they do not need the money."

The general public, she believes, is much more intelligent now in its attitude toward women in business, particularly married women, than it was even as recently as three years ago.

SEEING THE ROCKIES AS SHEEP GO TO MONTANA

By JAP CRAWFORD.

Seeing the Rockies from the top of a boxcar is fun, and has its compensating features even though one is unlucky enough not to dodge one of those chains which dangle from a water or sand tower spout. In event the chain cracks you on the cranium it is you for it, for railroad regulations strictly restrict the boxcar mode of sightseeing. That fact is emphatically impressed by a railroad which otherwise is full of kindness and consideration for a cracked-cranium victim.

Of course, there is no denying that railroads must be a little kind and considerate, even to one who is cracked enough to break the climbing-on-top regulation. For there is no denying a lot of folks look upon railroads as sort of a public grab bag, and it is probably less expensive for them to be a little considerate than it is to defend damage suits even though they retain high powered attorneys at large salaries for that purpose.

But it appeals a whit to the ego to have a railroad carry you an extra seven miles for nothing, to have it wire ahead for its physician to meet you at a station two miles from town and to stitch up the cracked cranium for nothing. It appeals to the ego, yes, even though the news has spread through the town that "Doc" has gone out to the station just to pick up another hobo with a cracked bean. And the old vanity gets a feather tip on the hoof-bottom when "Doc" remarks to his kid that he, the victim, "has guts alright" after he, the "doc," has got through prodding around under the scalp with liquid fire and jabbed a dull needle through the hide thereabouts some four times.

Tales of Old Times

BY J. W. REDINGTON
pioneer editor of the "Gazette" writing from National Military Home, California.

Seeing Strange Sights
The neighbors had not had any fried grouse for a week. Beer and bread they could get along without, but fried grouse they must have.

Therefore, to fill a long-felt want that bright, crisp Sunday morning in the early fall, when the meadow larks were still singing their heads off, and the hawthorne leaves had turned to crimson and gold, the tall tamarax along the higher ridges were taking on their autumn tints, and the other good people of Heppner town were thronging to Sunday School, my cayuse Baldy, myself and the Gazet dog Dash were jogging up Willow Creek, on our way to the grouse orchards around Cab-in-canyon in the beautiful Blue Mountains.

Pasting a stubble field, I noticed that the same dead horse was lying there, same as two weeks before. But he was moving, or I thought he was. I jerked the bits out of Baldy's teeth, and stopped short his ten-mile-an-hour gait. I looked again, and that dead horse certainly moved, swelled up, expanded. I rubbed the same eyes that used to make me one of the best shots in Farrow's Scouts when we were campaigning against the hostile Sheepeater Indians in Idaho, and they again told me that that dead horse was moving. Then I asked Baldy if he was seeing the same things that I was, and he gave a snort that might have meant Yes, or that he was mad at being snatched. But instead of the horse shot broadside into the dead horse, but he made no scream. I had seen horses shot in battle, and they always sent forth an almost-human scream. And one of the awful smells which I will always smell was that of burning horse flesh on the Big Hole battlefield in Montana. Several of the Indian war-horses had been tied close to the wickiups, had been shot during the battle, had fallen into the campfires, and their burning flesh was sending out a never-to-be-forgotten odor.

Dash was a smart dog, and at my request he had climbed the fence in about a minute, surrounded the dead horse, and barked loud enough at him to bring any dead horse back to life. But instead of the horse jumping to his feet, three half-grown pigs rushed out and with heads in the air and the usual hog-squeals if surprised, wanted to know what it was all about? They had tunneled into that dead horse as he rapidly ripened, and had been shaking dice inside to see who would win the wishbone, gilderlute or other choice parts of the horse's interior department, and their wrestling around had caused the dead horse to swell, expand and vibrate.

\$2500 ASSURED CITY FOR RELIEF WORK

Preliminary Survey of All Affected Areas Completed.

WHEAT HAILED OUT

R. A. Thompson Reports Loss of 800 Acres; Damage by Dis- tricts, Names Given.

A relief program for flood sufferers made long strides yesterday when a corps of workers under J. O. Turner, county relief manager, completed a preliminary survey of all the stricken districts which shows a total loss of \$93,818. The survey was made on request of the state-federal relief headquarters at Portland, who assured Turner of at least \$2500 for Heppner.

Just how much money will be allotted the county, or how it will be disbursed, has not yet been determined, but the completed preliminary report went to Portland on last night's train.

Burton E. Palmer, first assistant state administrator, and Victor D. Carlson, field representative for eastern Oregon of the state relief set-up, will be in Heppner tonight to look over the flood situation.

An offer of assistance was also received yesterday from The Dalles Red Cross chapter.

The preliminary survey, covering the large territory affected, was completed in just 10 hours time. In the short time it was not possible to figure everything exactly, and it is also probable that all losses were not included. In fact damage to city of Heppner properties, which included damage to streets, bridges and water system, and to the American Legion swimming pool property, had not been estimated and were not included. When the final count is made the total loss will, in all probability, exceed \$100,000.

The survey brought out some losses not before reported, one of the largest of which was that of R. A. Thompson who lost 800 acres of wheat by the heavy hail which hit the upper Balm Fork canyon.

Appraisers for the survey were C. B. Cox and Harlan McCurdy, Willow creek above Heppner; P. M. Gemmill, Heppner north of Church street; John F. Vaughn, Church street south to May street; W. Vawter Parker, Balm fork; E. E. Rugg, upper Rhea creek; J. J. Wells, Willow creek below Heppner; C. W. McNamee, lower Rhea creek; George McDuffee, Heppner south of May street. Their appraisals were sent to Portland under the following heading: "The following is a preliminary survey of the property damage which resulted from a cloudburst in Morrow county on the 29th day of May, 1934. The survey was made on the 30th day of May by representative citizens of the county and is believed to be fairly accurate and trustworthy." Losses by districts were given as follows:

Upper Willow creek, \$1,250, including Norman Florence, R. B. Kelley, W. H. Cleveland, Frank Wilkinson, Walter Crossley, Frank Monahan.

North Heppner, \$8,210, including Frank Turner, L. Van Meter, Henry P. Gohn, M. E. Church, M. E. Church parsonage, W. G. McCarty, Isabelle Crawford, Alex Wilson, W. M. Furlong, Vera Hoppold, Vivian Kane, Episcopal Church parsonage, R. B. Ferguson, Frank Shively, Art Reid, J. J. Nye, Rebecca Baldwin, J. L. Yeager, Joe Westhoff laundry, W. E. Straight, Mrs. Herren Rumble, John Her, Mack Smith, Union Oil plant, Interior Warehouse Co., Jackson Warehouse Co., Mrs. Jeff French, W. L. McCaleb, O. W. R. & N. Co., Wm. LeTrace.

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Polly V. Church Rites Held Here on Tuesday

Funeral services were held in Heppner Tuesday afternoon for Polly V. Church, who for many years was a resident of this community, but who had resided in the Hood River valley for the past few years. Services were conducted at the Methodist church with Rev. Joseph Pope, pastor, officiating, and Anderson Funeral Chapel of Hood River in charge of arrangements. Services had been held in Hood River also on Monday before the remains were brought to this city. Interment was in the family lot at Masonic cemetery, and the services were attended by a large number of friends and former neighbors of Mrs. Church.

Polly Viola (Shick) Church was born on Butter creek in Umatilla county, Oregon, on September 18, 1882, and died after an illness of a little more than two weeks, at the hospital in Hood River, on Saturday, May 26, 1934, aged 51 years, 8 months and 8 days. She had been in ill health for the past year or more, but this illness did not take a serious turn until some two weeks ago when she was taken to the hospital for medical care.

On February 4, 1901, she was united in marriage to Malcolm Church of Heppner, and to this union two sons and a daughter were born. The family resided here for several years, then going to the upper Hood River valley where they established a home. Mr. Church died on June 22, 1924. Mrs. Church continued her home there, but nearly every season spent much time at Heppner. She was a member of the Methodist church and had lived a consistent Christian life. She had a large circle of friends in this community. Besides her son Charles and family of Graton, California, she is survived by seven sisters, Mrs. Maggie Hunt of Heppner; Belle McCullough, Nina Brix, Stella Conner, Minnie Broche of Seattle, Wash.; Ida Hanson of Hillsboro, Oregon, and Etta Goldsmith of Wenatchee, Wash.

Rhea Creek Wins Game From Condon Sunday

On the blue grass diamond at the forks of Rhea creek Sunday afternoon, the Rhea creek ball tossers met the second team from Condon, winning by a score of 18-8. It is reported that the game was a much better contest than the score sheet reveals.

The Rhea creek team came to Heppner last Thursday evening and engaged the locals, putting up a good exhibition. The score was 3 to 6 in favor of Heppner.

J. L. Gault, receiver of the Heppner banks, motored to Portland on Saturday, where he was called by matters of business. Returning to Heppner on Wednesday, he was accompanied by Mrs. Gault who will spend the summer months here.

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