

# Heppner Gazette Times

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## County to Benefit From PWA Funds Just Allocated

### Range Water, Irrigation Developments Get Large Sums.

Public works projects for Oregon totalling 65, estimated to cost \$27,102,000, have been included in the recently announced \$5,000,000,000 national program, it was announced by Ormond R. Bean, chairman of the Oregon state planning board.

The projects were definitely listed in the detailed report of the National Resources committee to President Roosevelt, which formed the basis for the public works program.

Information and data on the projects were obtained last summer by 15 workers on the planning board staff project, set up through the cooperation of the National Resources committee and the WPA for this purpose. Many federal, state and local agencies cooperated with the planning board for this work.

Projects which are located in Morrow county or which will directly benefit this county are:

Fish ladders and screens at dams and irrigation ditches to prevent destruction of fish life at Federal projects on tributaries in middle Columbia basin, \$125,000; reservoirs, springs and wells on the public range and national forests for watering stock, \$222,000; municipal water supply investigation, \$4,000; irrigability classification of project lands \$25,000; stream pollution study, \$50,000; and a state-wide study to determine methods for avoidance of losses in distribution and application of irrigation waters, \$50,000.

Largest project on the program calls for an expenditure of \$9,575,000 for sewage treatment plants and interceptor sewers to improve the Willamette river. Other work in the Willamette valley is listed at \$2,430,000, for bank protection and clearing flood channels on the main river and on tributaries. An intercepting sewer and primary sewage treatment plant at Salem, to cost \$360,000, and a similar project for Oregon City at a cost of \$106,000, are also included.

A storage reservoir on Powder river, for irrigation and power, calls for an allotment of \$3,665,000, while a canal and dam for irrigation of the Deschutes North District at Madras is scheduled to cost \$3,000,000.

Of special importance to the state are the investigation projects included in the program at the request of the Oregon planning board, Mr. Bean points out. These will not only provide the basis for a long-range planning program for many sections of the state, but should reveal valuable resources that may add materially to the industry and wealth of the state. These projects include investigation of underground water resources, municipal water supply investigations, stream pollution studies, survey of fish spawning areas, survey for classification of irrigable and other lands, and many others.

## Saturday, 20th, Set For Band Appearance

First of the Saturday afternoon public concerts by the Heppner school band will be held March 20, weather permitting, announces Harold Buhman, bandmaster. Arrangement for the concerts was recently made by business men and women of the city who signed to contribute 50 cents or more each following each concert toward the band's expenses to the state contest and other local expense.

Further particulars will be given in these columns next week. Watch for it.

Mrs. W. P. Mahoney returned home the first of the week from a visit at the home of Dr. and Mrs. F. E. Farrior in Pendleton.

## LIONS SUPPLY SEED FOR PEA TEST

Service Club Sees Possibility of Financing Swimming Pool; Back Proposed Dam Surveys.

Heppner Lions, Monday, backed the move to ascertain whether Morrow county could raise peas profitably, to the extent of offering to purchase four bushels of seed. This amount was stated by Joe Belanger, county agent, as needed for the planting of several test plots being arranged for this week.

The club previously encouraged a test being made here in view of successful pea raising in Umatilla county. It was believed that those farmers planting the test plots, giving of their land and labor toward the trial, were contributing all that could reasonably be expected of them.

Report of the club's swimming pool committee showed definite development toward a plan of financing the pool venture with report that several sizeable contributions would be available if businesses generally in town showed willingness to do their part. Dr. L. D. Tibbles, chairman of the committee, expected to start a move immediately to ascertain how far it might be possible to raise the necessary finances by this route and to secure further plans and cost estimates. The Lions have signified their belief that, however financed, administration of the project should be in the hands of the city government.

The club also resolved itself as favoring the \$5000 appropriation now before congress to have a survey made looking to the construction of flood control dams on Willow and Rhea creeks, and asking the representative and senators of the district to work in its behalf. S. E. Notson, chairman of the club's cooperating committee on this project, was asked to draw the resolution.

Alden Blankenship, school superintendent, thanked the club for its cooperation in helping to make a success of the recent sub-district basketball tournament, and especially for supplying the trophy given the winning team.

Mr. Belanger, chairman of the Lions committee on arrangements, announced that the date of March 24 had been approved by Business and Professional Womens club for the joint dinner, and that E. R. Fatland, state representative of Condon, had been invited to deliver the main address. Ray P. Kinne, Lions president, will be toastmaster. Further contact was being made with Mr. and Mrs. Ted Roy of Pendleton, in an attempt to arrange a public concert by them at the Star theater that evening and to appear at the club's dinner as well.

## Court Appreciates Aid on Blocked Roads

Signifying the court's appreciation of the assistance given for help in clearing snow blocked roads this winter, is the following communication from Bert Johnson, judge, to M. L. Rodman, CCC soil conservation superintendent:

"On behalf of the members of the county court and the people of the county I sincerely thank you and all officers and men of your organization in Heppner for the invaluable assistance given us in the work of clearing the roads of snow drifts. The use of your equipment without cost to the county except for gas and oil and the labor of your men, cheerfully and efficiently given, brought us through a period of stress which, frankly, our equipment could not handle alone.

"I take this means of thanking each man of your organization personally for the wonderful assistance rendered us and assure each one of you that I deeply appreciate your cooperation and work."

George Gibson arrived last week from his home at Tampa, Florida, for a visit at the home of his sister, Mrs. Frank Rumble.

## North End Grazing District Set Up for '37 Operation

### Allotments Made for Year; Three Classes of Users Served.

Allotments for 1937 licensees were definitely established at the two-day meeting of directors of Morrow Grazing association held at Heppner last Friday and Saturday. In most cases the 1937 allotments are not the same as will probably be the case when final grazing permits are issued. No permanent allotments have as yet been established, announces Joseph Belanger, county agent.

Directors have set March 15 as the approximate date for going on to the range this spring and June 11 as the date for leaving the district to go to summer range. Within the next two weeks a representative of the grazing service will be in this territory making a survey of commensurate property licensees. This survey will serve as a basis for permanent allotments. Until such time as permanent allotments are made, it will be the duty of the board to establish seasons of grazing. After permits are issued, however, each man will be responsible for the condition of his allotment, and any system of grazing which does not injure the range may be followed.

It is inevitable in setting up a district of this kind that considerable difficulty in establishing allotments will be encountered for the first two or three years, said Mr. Belanger. In general, all of the land within the district has been over-grazed for a number of years. The regulations of the Taylor Grazing act have been followed very closely in establishing the rights of applicants for licenses to graze within the district. These regulations, as interpreted by the grazing service, set up three classes of users. The Class I user is one having commensurate dependable property and prior use of the range. Class II user is one having commensurate dependable property but not prior use. Class III user is one having no commensurate dependable property but having prior use. The board of directors attempted to make room this spring for everyone who had used the range last year. This has, of course, resulted in some crowding, and probably none of the Class I licensees have as large an allotment as they are really entitled to.

For the 1937 grazing year, licensees will pay grazing fees to two organizations. The fee for government land will be paid direct to the department of the interior, and the fee for county land will be paid direct to the association.

Association directors are anticipating full cooperation on the part of all licensees in the matter of avoidance of trespass on other allotments. Each licensee will receive a map showing definitely his outside boundary. While the grazing association has the authority to bring trespass action, it is anticipated and hoped that it will be unnecessary to bring any such action. Due to inevitable crowding for this year on the range in the north end of the county, it was impossible to establish definite allotments for a number of operators who have been using the public domain for a few head of dairy cattle or horses. Pressure in this area should be relieved somewhat next year, and at that time it will probably be advisable to set aside certain areas for common use.

## TO PLAY RUFUS.

Heppner grade school basketballers have drawn Rufus as their opponent in a game to be played at 6:30 tomorrow evening in the district grade school tournament at Arlington.

## WATER IN WILLOW REACHES RIVER

Hinton Said Running Good Head; 5 Feet Snow on Ditch Creek Yet Unmelted.

Water in Willow creek reached the Columbia river yesterday, with ranchers along the line making all use of it possible, reports Joseph Belanger, county agent. He said Rhea creek was also providing water for early irrigation all along the line.

Hinton creek is just starting with a good head and was expected to reach Heppner today, while farmers along the creek were filling ditches, said Millard Rodman, with the soil conservation service. All fields were getting a good soaking as the water progressed, and Rodman predicted that farms would get water which were without it last year.

A CCC crew completed work of opening the Willow-Ditch creek ditch yesterday and found five feet of snow packed solid on Ditch creek that had not started to melt, Rodman reported. He believed it would be three weeks anyway before there would be any considerable run-off, indicating that the flow in Willow creek would hold up well.

All indications point to the best season for irrigation in several years, the informed men believe.

## Sheriff's Office Expanded in Work

The tax collecting department has been separated from other departments of the work of the sheriff's office in renovating and cleaning up operations which have been under way for several weeks at the court house. Henceforth the tax collecting office will occupy all the space of the old office, while the law enforcement and various license collecting departments will occupy the office directly across the hall formerly occupied by the district attorney's office.

The partition in the old office has been removed, additional counter space provided and the entire office renovated and lighted, contributing to the facility of workers as well as making it more inviting to the public. The door to the jail formerly opening into the rear of the office has been closed, and the only entrance now opens on the outside just back of the downstairs corridor. Improvements are also under way in other offices, including placing of new linoleum and other needed work, while Jim Archer, the new janitor, has been busily scrubbing woodwork, all of which is helping to make the court house more inviting to the public.

## IS 50-YEAR SUBSCRIBER.

Mrs. Anna Natter of Heppner was this week made a complimentary subscriber to the Heppner Gazette Times by virtue of having taken the paper since the Gazette was started March 30, 1883. Mrs. Natter first came to Heppner in 1882, and is still active at 81 years of age. Her niece, Miss Katie Minert, who lives with her, was born the same year and month as the Gazette. In notifying this paper of the 50-year continuous subscription, she said, "I guess we'll have to stick it out together."

## INITIATED INTO HONORARY.

Kenneth J. Smouse, junior in engineering at O. S. C. and son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Smouse of Ione, was one of a class of initiates taken into Sigma Tau, national honorary society in engineering, February 25. Initiation was held at the Memorial Union building in Corvallis with banquet following at the Golden Pheasant.

## HORSES GO WELL.

The best sale of horses in his recent experience was reported by V. R. Runnion, auctioneer, at the D. F. Depperman public auction in the Echo section Tuesday. While the crowd was not large, those attending were there to buy, and all animals went at a good price.

## Engineers Approve \$5000 Asked for Flood Survey

### Reservoir, Storage For Irrigation OK'd On Willow and Rhea.

A recommendation is now before congress for a \$5000 appropriation to be used in making a survey of flood control needs on Willow and Rhea creeks. Printed copies of the reports of the army engineers carrying the recommendation and facts upon which the recommendation was based were received here this week. Immediately resolutions from the county and city governments and the Lions club went forward to Washington urging Representative Pierce and Senators McNary and Steiwer to use their best efforts in behalf of the appropriation.

Reports of the district and division engineers, the chief of the rivers and harbors division of the board of army engineers, and of the chief of the board of army engineers all showed a favorable action on the recommendations of local interests, and their recommendation was shown to have been transmitted to the speaker of the house of representatives by the secretary of war.

The engineers reported the belief that establishment of reservoirs at the mouth of Balm fork on Willow creek and at the mouth of Sanford canyon on Rhea creek would go far toward controlling future floods, based on experiences of the past. Recited were the heavy loss of life and property in the Heppner flood of June 14, 1903, and property losses in other floods including that of May 29, 1934.

They reported the belief that water could be stored in the reservoirs for irrigation purposes as late as May 15 each year, but should be emptied immediately thereafter, as cloudbursts might be expected any time after that date. This feature, they believed would be of assistance in providing additional irrigation water for land already under cultivation but which suffers many years from drought. Assistance thus given this land would help maintain its taxable value and thus keep a heavier share of the tax burden from falling on hill lands.

Development of any hydro-electric energy at the reservoirs was believed by the engineers to be impractical and not worth consideration.

The \$5000 was believed necessary for the survey to get needed technical data and to arrive at workable estimates on type of construction and costs.

This report shows that the army engineers have gone as far as possible at this time in taking care of the flood control situation here. If and when the survey is made, the basis will be laid for organization of a local flood control district to provide sites and assume cost of maintenance after construction of the reservoirs. The bill to permit voluntary organization of such a district, which had the approval of the army engineers, is now law and may be used when the time comes. Just now,  
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## Tour Arranged for Field Pea Trial

A representative of the Burk cannery at Milton is expected in the county within the next few days, and with Joseph Belanger, county agent, will make a tour of inspection looking to the planting of test plots of field peas.

A list of farmers who have signified their willingness to put out plots has been made by W. T. Campbell, pea industry enthusiast. Heppner Lions will provide the necessary seed, which Mr. Belanger expects will be ordered through the cannery representative.