

## Local Happenings

Virgil Cowdrey, son Lyle Cowdrey, Orrin Furlong and sister, Miss Ruth Furlong, and Jim Farley, Jr., returned home last night from a week's visit in Portland where they took in fleet week activities and visited Don Cowdrey, son of Virgil and brother of Lyle, who was with Uncle Sam's marines. Don took them from hull to turret on the Louisville, the ship to which he is assigned. The party also saw the boat races on the Willamette, which proved thrilling. Don left yesterday with his ship, headed for Long Beach.

Raymond H. Turner, manager of Lexington Oil Co-op, was a business visitor in the city Tuesday morning. He had just returned home from the veterans hospital at Walla Walla where he underwent treatment for arthritis for two weeks, and felt considerably improved in health.

Mrs. Tom Howell and sister, Mrs. Zeph Harrison of Top, left for Eugene Saturday in response to word that their mother, Mrs. Martin Stewart, was in a hospital there in a critical condition as the result of injuries received in an automobile accident.

Report was carried in the Walla Walla Bulletin this week that a marriage license was issued in that city Saturday to W. E. Francis and Rose French of this county. Mr. Francis is state policeman in charge of game protective work in this section.

For Sale—1 49 x 40 Gorden draper; 1 15 x 40 Gorden spout draper; 1 39 x 36 Morrison double edge draper; sections, rivets, draper and feeder sticks at sale prices. Beach Equipment Co., Lexington.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Akers were transacting business in the city yesterday from the Eight Mile farm. Harvest in that section will be starting the first of next week.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Huston and Tuesday morning from the farm in Eight Mile. Harvest in their section will be starting next week.

Miss Leta Humphreys is spending the week in Portland attending Buyers Week, and expected to go on to Eugene for a visit before returning home.

Mrs. George Stephens and son Buddy arrived yesterday at the home of Mrs. Stephens' sister, Mrs. Earl Gordon, for a few days' visit.

Mrs. Alice E. Gaily of Enterprise arrived in the city Monday and will visit until Saturday at the home of her son, Hubert Gaily.

Mrs. Harlan Devin and two children are visiting this week from Condon at the home of her sister, Mrs. Andrew Baldwin.

D. N. McKay, Condon mayor, and Alex Currie, Gilliam county assessor, were in the city Friday on business.

Mrs. Raymond M. Rice left last Friday for Seaside to spend two weeks' vacation at the seashore.

Charles Klinger, north Lexington wheat raiser, was a business visitor in the city this morning.

H. O. Ely was transacting business in the city a short time Tuesday morning from Ione.

Mrs. George Krebs was a Heppner visitor Monday morning from the farm at Cecil.

For Sale—2- and 3-lb. friers, delivered. Phone 3F8, Clarence Biddle.

Legion Auxiliary food sale, Saturday, July 31, Hughes' store, 11 a.m.

Good Jersey cow for sale. Jason Biddle, Ione.

### Safety Leaders Offer Pledge

"I will drive carefully at all times, keeping hands on wheel, eyes on road, mind on driving. I will learn, respect and obey the safety rules." Striving to stem the flux of traffic disaster scourging Oregon, thus will

every motorist in the state be given an opportunity to allie himself with Oregon's crusade against death.

The motorist's "White Cross Safety Pledge" bearing the signature of the car's operator, is contained on a small, red, white and blue sticker to be attached in the lower right-hand corner of the windshield. It will signify the driver's sincere intention to drive safely.

The pledge is sponsored by the Oregon State Motor association and other safety leaders as a part of the traffic safety program of education, engineering and enforcement.

Motorists will be asked to sign the pledge only with the understanding that they will accept, as the pledge outlines, their clear-cut duty to cinserve life and prevent suffering and injury with every means in their power, the safety leaders aver.

Three out of five fatal vehicular accidents are caused by some negligence of the man behind the wheel, the motor association points out. To motorists desiring to lend their support to the battle against this needless toll, the pledge will be available throughout the state at offices of the motor club. Here it can be obtained at the office of this newspaper and any official appointment of the Oregon State Motor association.

The support of every owner registering his car with the secretary of state will be requested. Through the cooperation of James H. Cassell, president of the Oregon Automobile Dealers, purchasers of new or used cars will be given a chance to take the pledge of safe driving.

### Crops Near Average As Prices Hold Steady

Near average crop prospects, with food crops somewhat more promising than feed crops, is the general agricultural situation in the United States to mid-July as indicated by a report just released by the O. S. C. extension service. Considering the somewhat reduced numbers of livestock, the feed supply is expected to be about adequate in the country as a whole.

Despite some improvement in crop prospects compared with a month ago, the general farm price level in the whole country and in Oregon appears not to have continued during the past few weeks the decline which was apparent during April and May. Farm prices are generally considered higher than a year ago, being supported by substantially higher consumer purchasing power.

The decline in the general level of farm prices during April and May, without a similar decline in farm costs, resulted in a decline in the index of farm purchasing power of approximately 8 per cent since January, as measured by the ratio between prices farmers receive for farm products and the prices they pay for commodities used in production and living. The June index of purchasing power of farm products stood at 93 per cent of the pre-war average, compared with 101 at the high point in January, 1937.

The report, which is available from county agricultural agents, contains much detailed information on farm prices and market outlook for numerous commodities, including wheat and rye, corn, oats and barley, potatoes, truck crops, fruits, nuts, hops, flax, hay, pastures, hogs, milk and eggs and chickens.

### 4-H CLUBBERS MEET

4-H club members of Heppner met in the club rooms at the fair pavilion yesterday. A picnic to be held at Miss Moyer's in August was discussed. Demonstration and exhibits to be given at the fair were also discussed. A demonstration of blac manage was given by Claudine Drake and Peggy Tamblin. Work assignments for the next week were handed out by Miss Moyer. Refreshments were served.

### DIVORCE FILED

Emma Bellenbrock filed suit for divorce in circuit court this week against Delbert Bellenbrock, with J. O. Turner as attorney.

## Schools Cut Debt While Plants Go Backward, Auditor

### Consolidation Here Though Unnecessary Work Goes On, Said

Though the current financial condition of the 41 school districts in Morrow county shows a net improvement of \$11,732.73, C. R. Ham, auditor, reports a lamentable decrease in expenditures for school supplies and building repairs. In his report, made this week on completion of audit of all the districts' books, Ham says:

"I wish to point out a few of the conditions revealed here: At the bottom of the Schedule of Warrants and Bonds Outstanding it may be seen that the total indebtedness decreased \$24,764.20, but at the same time the cash on hand decreased also a total of \$13,031.47, which results in a net improvement in the current financial condition of \$11,732.73.

"I am inclined to think, however, that this 'improvement,' so called, is somewhat misleading, in that it doesn't tell the whole story. That is, when we scan the clerks' reports of most of the operating districts, one of the most striking facts noticed is the small amount spent in a year's time for teaching supplies such as maps, magazines, writing materials, book, chalk, etc., and also the meager expenditures for repairs and improvements of buildings and equipment. After years of depression we should expect to see all buildings and equipment reconditioned. A conclusion is easy to draw, therefore, that most districts would do better to lay in a good stock of teaching supplies, books, paint, furniture and other needed equipment, which is certainly the purpose of the funds made available to the boards."

A definite trend toward consolidation of districts, in fact if not in name, is indicated by the Pullman, Wash., auditor, as he continues:

"The decrease of population in the country in the past several years, and I understand also the decrease in the size of the families, have brought a serious problem of education to Morrow county. For example, one district, which I think is typical, was a district of 30 pupils (including the present clerk) but at present there are only six. Another district used to maintain a school of 27 children. When transportation to Lexington was started there were 17 on the bus; now only one or two. At the same time, the Heppner, Lexington and Ione districts, which accommodate 18 of these non-operating districts, charge only approximately one-third or one-half of cost as tuition: Excluding Debt Service and transportation cost and the new heating plant at Ione, total education costs were about as follows: At Heppner, \$25,763 for 226 pupils or an average of \$114 per year; at Lexington, \$11,142 for 74 pupils, or \$150 each; and at Ione, \$11,945 for 85 pupils, or \$140 each; these costs should be compared with the tuition rates charged to account for the statement by one clerk that it is cheaper NOT to consolidate. Tuition rates should be at least as much as the average education cost.

"A fact, realized by no one except the county school superintendent, is that, excluding one district on the eastern boundary, an area approximately twenty miles wide from north to south stretches across Morrow county from the eastern border northwest to within ten miles of the western border with only three schools in session during the school term, which are those at Heppner, Lexington and Ione.

"That is, 22 fully organized districts are now, from the standpoint of educating their children, practically consolidated into three operating districts. But 19 of those districts, although having closed their schools, probably never to be reopened, must continue to pay their clerks their salaries, to furnish the county superintendent with bonds for \$2,000 each for those clerks, to have (required by law) those clerks'

records audited annually, and to pay the various other clerks' expenses, mileage, stationery, etc. Last year those expenses for 19 districts, that could apparently be eliminated for all practical purposes, amounted to \$831.10, as will be seen in the following schedule: (The schedule enumerates clerk's salary, varying from \$10 to \$50; clerk's bond, \$10 for each district, auditing fee, \$3 in all except two where it was \$4, and miscellaneous expenses varying from \$1 to \$12.50, in districts 2, 3, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 32, 34, 37, 38, 41, 48, 50, 53.)

"Now those 19 clerks perform certain apparent functions, of course, but these services are doubtful because the transactions being largely inter-district and duplicating in nature may all be transferred to the clerks of the three operating districts without incurring extra burdens on them. Moreover, if these 19 districts should consolidate with the three operating districts they would acquire an equity in the three modern plants and equipment which already they are using by paying tuition.

"The transactions of the 19 districts include the following items: Paying tuition, receiving compensation from the three districts for transporting a few high school pupils in their busses, paying transportation expenses, and, of course, paying their own salaries, bonds, insurance on the closed school houses, etc., out of school funds received. District 8 pupils attended outside the county; District 37 paid three years tuition in advance; District 48 had no pupil at all; District 53 sold its school house to the highest bidder

for \$135. The pupils in the 19 non-operating districts totalled 105, running from none to 11 per district or on an average of 6; and for the 105 pupils an average of \$8 apiece was paid for the money-protecting items scheduled above. Inter-district receipts and payments are set forth in the following schedule: (In the table are listed the inter-district transactions for the 19 districts, before listed, totalling \$6,925.94.)

"This condition is increasing each year as is shown below:

"For the school year 1932-33, these inter-district transactions amounted to \$3,034.03; no schedule for 1933-34; 1934-35, \$4,195.58; 1935-36, \$4,501.71; 1936-37, \$6,925.94.

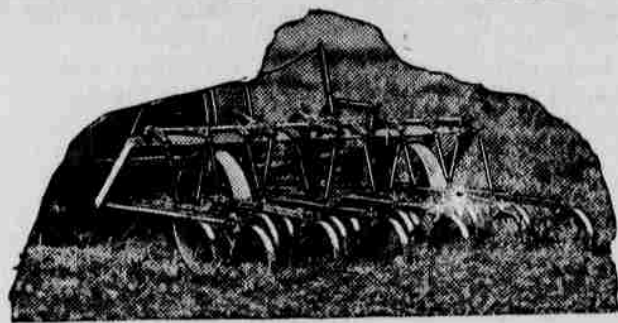
"The trend is apparently permanent. The causes are better roads and busses and automobiles and what is indicated in one farmer-director's following statement: 'The big moneyed men,' he explained, 'are buying up and combining the farms; one I know has 6,000 acres; I used to farm several places, but all those I used to rent have been bought up by big interests, so I only farm my home place now! and when they offer me enough for that they can have that, too!'

### CHANGE OVER TODAY

J. R. Farrington, district manager Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company from The Dalles, was in the city today superintending the switch over of Lexington telephones to remote control through the local central office.

F. B. Nickerson and Ambrose Chapin left the end of the week for a fishing trip to central Oregon lakes.

# No End to its usefulness



### JOHN DEERE FIELD AND Orchard Cultivator

A real seed-bed maker . . . a sure-fire weed destroyer . . . an orchard and alfalfa cultivator . . . a general purpose tillage machine that tills the soil as it kills the weeds—that's the John Deere Model "CC" Field and Orchard Cultivator.

It will pay you to come in—learn all about this general-purpose cultivator.

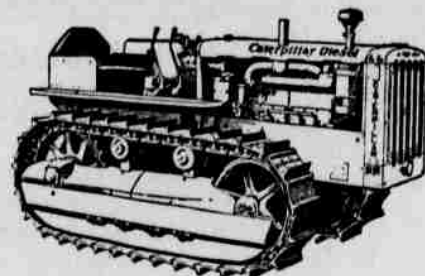
#### "CC" Features:

- ★ Furnished with stiff or spring teeth.
- ★ Shovel equipment for all conditions.
- ★ Wheels are inside frame—you can get close to trees, fences, ditches.
- ★ Horse or tractor hitch. Tractor outfit has power lift and depth regulator.

Available in 5-, 6-1/2-, 8-, 10-, 11-1/2-, and 14-1/2-foot sizes.

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