

# Full-Time Health Nurse Held Vital To Effective Work

## State Workers Bring Message as County Group Organized

Renewed impetus to public health work in the county was expected as a result of reorganization of Morrow County Public Health association at the courthouse Tuesday evening when Miss Elsie Wichen, executive secretary of Oregon Tuberculosis association, and Dr. O. E. Bostrom, assistant state health officer, brought inspiring messages, and new officers were elected.

Rev. R. C. Young was named president, Mrs. Maude Pointer of Lexington, vice-president; Mrs. Clara Beamer, secretary, and J. O. Turner, treasurer.

Miss Wichen encouraged the new organization to work for a well-rounded, year-round health program and the acquisition of a full-time county health nurse, without whose services no adequate program can be carried out.

She declared that diphtheria and smallpox are both entirely preventable, and that while some good work in their eradication has been accomplished in Morrow county, the immunizations have not completely covered the children of pre-school age among whom the mortality rate is the highest.

Tuberculosis still retains a place in the parent state association's name for a very good reason, Miss Wichen said. While the white plague has dropped from first to fifth place in major causes of death since organized prevention started, it still leads the mortality list for men and women who died between the ages of 20 and 40, the most productive years of life. The once greatly dreaded disease is not stamped out, as a prevailing public belief indicates, she emphasized, for to every known

case there still exists in circulation an unknown case, jeopardizing members of family and society with which it comes into contact.

It is in aiding and abetting the work of prevention in these health enemies that a full time health nurse is most justified, though the nurse's services are necessary in carrying out a planned program in many other ways.

Miss Wichen explained the financial structure of public health work through the sale of Christmas seals. These health harbingers are the sole means of support of the state and county health associations. Morrow county's per capita sale of 3 1/2 stamps last year brought it half of the money raised from the sale. The other half went to the state association, out of which was paid five per cent of the total gross to the national association. Any county that reaches the eight seal per capita mark may retain 75 per cent of the seal proceeds, and Miss Wichen urged that Morrow county attempt this goal in the next sale.

Dr. Bostrom enlarged upon Miss Wichen's remarks with reference to the total preventability of smallpox and diphtheria, and urged the practicability of planned public health work with evidence substantiating the old adage that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

He cited in particular the case of Detroit where more and larger hospitals were being provided to treat tuberculosis, until the yearly bill finally mounted to \$1,400,000 before it was discovered that tuberculosis was preventable and an organized campaign was waged to prevent rather than to cure. In a few years, the tuberculosis rate had dropped to a point where the cost for care of developed cases was declining and the saving in cost of treatment was more than compensating for the cost of prevention.

Citing as a human characteristic the tendency of man to let his health go until it is too late, then spending for every nostrum of which he hears in a futile effort to regain what he has lost, Dr. Bostrom urged constant evangelistic health work. One life saved before it is too late is worth a lifetime of effort, he declared.

The provision of a district super-

intendent from the state health office will be made if three or four adjoining eastern Oregon counties will put on full-time health nurses, he promised.

Dr. Lawrence reported briefly on past activities of the county association. Expenditure of funds in the past was itemized to show in what ways the association's funds had been used. Included were payment of part of the county nurse's salary, transportation of Boardman children to The Dalles for x-ray diagnosis of tuberculosis, state's apportionment of seal sale money, stationery, stamps and other local expense connected with the sale.

Marshall Fell from Portland is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Fell, this week.

## Legion Auxiliary Gives Poppy Awards

This year the American Legion Auxiliary again sponsored the Poppy Poster contest in the local grade school. This contest is divided into two divisions, the upper division comprising the seventh and eighth grades, and the lower made up of the fifth and sixth grades. Miss Maud King, art teacher, directed the students in making the posters, which will be displayed in the downtown store windows to advertise the annual memorial poppy sale to be held here Saturday, May 21.

Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Alva Jones, poppy poster chairman, and Mrs. Harry Tamblin went to the school and announced the winners

in this contest and presented the prizes. In the upper division Philip Cohn won first place, Dick Edmondson, second, and Claudine Drake and Birdine Vance were given honorable mention. In the lower division, Bert Brown won first place, Alden Greely, second, and Louise Green and Joseph Hughes were given honorable mention.

### EXAMINER COMING

An examiner of operators and chauffeurs from the office of Earl Snell, secretary of state, will be in Heppner at the city hall, Thursday, May 26, between the hours of 1 and 5 p. m. All those wishing permits or licenses to drive cars are asked to get in touch with the examiner at that time.

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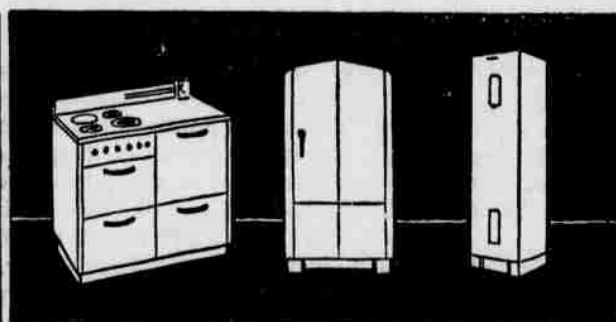
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