

## County School Law Benefits Talked At Lexington Meet

Crook County Superintendent Tells of Oldest Unit Set-up

More than 100 representative citizens from over the county attended a county-wide meeting at Lexington Tuesday afternoon at which R. H. McAtee, superintendent, and H. Baldwin, board chairman of the Crook county schools, explained how the "county unit" school system is working in their county.

The meeting was called by the committee representing the new county school board organization, and Orville Cutsforth, committee chairman, presided. Those assembled took no definite steps of procedure, but the barrage of questions fired at the visitors denoted a lively interest.

As a member of the committee, J. O. Kincaid said it was the committee's desire to determine what is the best course to follow in the future in school administration for the best interests of taxpayers, parents, pupils and the community generally. One of three courses may be taken, he said. One, to follow the same course as that already being followed; two, to consolidate districts and three, to adopt the county school law, which he objected to being called the "county unit" plan.

That Morrow county has the second highest per pupil cost of education among Oregon counties at present, was the assertion of Mr. Cutsforth in opening the meeting. Among counties having the lowest per pupil cost are the four counties now operating under the entire-county-in-one-district plan. Among these is Crook county, the first county in the state to go county unit. It was because of this fact that Mr. McAtee was invited to address the meeting, said Mr. Cutsforth.

Both Mr. McAtee and Mr. Baldwin declared they considered the plan in Crook county entirely successful, and Mr. McAtee said that he believed it was satisfactory with at least 95 per cent of the people. Mr. Baldwin said that in his six years on the board the county schools had been operated on a cash basis.

A point in question with many of those attending was whether, with organization under the county school law, the new district would assume indebtedness of existing districts. This point was explained by Mrs. Lucy E. Rodgers, county school superintendent, who said that the county school law provides that a fair appraisal shall be made of all existing school properties, assets balanced against liabilities, and the net indebtedness of any district assessed only against property within the original district to be liquidated over a period of not more than 15 years. Districts having larger assets than liabilities would be properly credited with the difference.

Favoring the county unit plan, primarily, are the advantages of a single administrative head for the entire county, uniformity of taxation and uniformity of standards, Mr. McAtee emphasized.

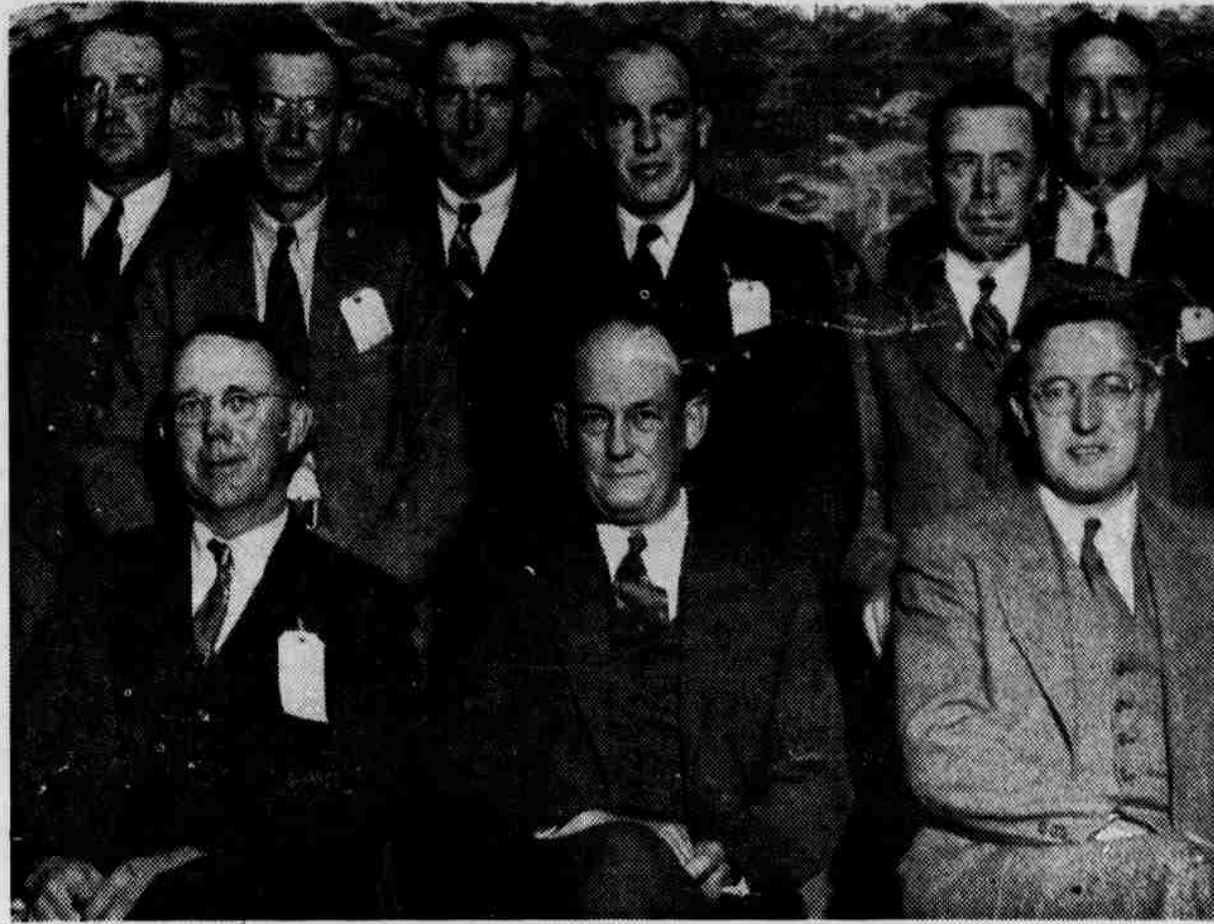
Whereas, Morrow county at present has 40 school districts with boards levying taxes, in Crook county a single board levies all special school taxes in their county a separate tax for elementary and high schools. The elementary levy for 1938 was 5.3 mills, and combined elementary and high school levies 9.6 mills. This compared with a county average in Morrow county last year of 12.5 mills.

The county unit board has an advantage in selecting a superintendent, McAtee pointed out. Whereas an incompetent person might be chosen under the old system due to vagaries of politics, the unit board, which has appointive power, can go onto the open market and choose the best from among available talent.

Besides eliminating detail expense of operating the many districts in Morrow county, of which clerks' salaries alone were estimated at \$2000, economies could be effected through

(Continued on Page 11)

## Officers of Eastern Oregon Wheat League



THE DALLES, Dec. 4 (Special)—Officers of the Eastern Oregon Wheat league, elected at the 11th annual convention here Saturday, are: Seated (left to right), H. D. Proudfoot, Wasco, president; C. K. Barker, Condon, vice-president; C. W. Smith, Corvallis, secretary-treasurer. Front row (standing), S. P. Walker, The Dalles, route 3; Jens Terjeson, Pendleton; Oscar Peterson, Ione; back row, Millard R. Eakin, Grass Valley; J. Z. Welmer, Condon, and J. L. Staggs, Enterprise, county representatives on the executive committee. John L. Campbell, Madras, was not present when this picture was taken.

—Courtesy Portland Oregonian.

## School Committee Holds Meeting Here

The committee representing the county school board organization, studying plans for district reorganization met at the courthouse Tuesday afternoon. Reports were made on local sentiment so far uncovered.

It was decided to add more members to the committee so that the county may be better covered, with a member named for Boardman, Butter creek and Gooseberry communities, and to continue a campaign of education for some time. It was thought that a special election might be called next year if public demand seemed to justify, or that it might be deferred until the next primary election in 1940.

Members now serving on the committee are O. W. Cutsforth, chairman; Floyd Adams, R. B. Rice, Merle Swaggart, Emil Carlson, Oscar Peterson, E. E. Rugg and Alden Blankenship. The new members named are Jesse Warfield, Gooseberry; Nels Kristensen, Boardman, and Marion Finch, Butter creek. A member will be named from Irrigon.

The committee will meet again January 13.

## P. P. & L. Sponsors Decorative Lighting

Prizes will be offered to Heppner, Lexington and Ione residents again this year for Christmas decorative lighting, by Pacific Power & Light company.

To qualify, the decorations and lighting must be in place by December 22nd at 5 p. m. and be lighted from that hour until 9 p. m. and each day during those hours until January 1st, both dates inclusive.

Judging will be by three local persons, and prizes will be awarded on the basis of 60 per cent for display of Christmas spirit and 40 per cent for simplicity or design and electrical effect.

At least six lights, or a total of 60 watts if standard voltage lamps are used, must be used outside of the home to qualify.

Two prizes will be offered, first prize \$10.00 in cash, second prize \$5.00 in cash. Decision of the judges will be final.

Entry blanks must be signed by those wishing to enter the contest on or before December 22nd, at 5 p. m. at the Pacific Power & Light company office in Heppner.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Anglin have received word from their daughter, Miss Rachel who is attending a Bible college in Oakland, Cal., that she recently preached her first sermon. Miss Anglin has taken up accordion and xylophone in connection with her work which she is enjoying very much.

## McNamer Home Has Exterior Pictorial Christmas Display

An outstanding depiction of Christmas spirit is reflected from the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. McNamer on N. Court street.

Attractively displayed in front of their house is a colorful pictorial scene of the Christ manger with the three wise men on their way to greet the coming of the Messiah.

The manger scene, several feet high, is a separate piece as is each of the wise men. At night an appealing lighting effect makes the scene especially attractive.

## Locals Win First League Hoop Game

The Heppner quintet won their first league basketball game last Friday evening by defeating a strong Fossil team, 28-25.

Heppner shot ahead to an 8-4 lead at the end of the first period, but Fossil came up to 10-12, half time score. After an exciting third period, the score was tied up at 19-all. Fossil took a one-point lead in the first of the fourth quarter, but in the final minutes the Mustangs forged ahead to pull the game out of the fire, 28-25. Prindle of Fossil was high point man with 10 points.

The line-up:  
Heppner (28) Fossil (25)  
Barratt (6) F Pringle (10)  
Morgan F Dyer (2)  
Drake (6) C Wham (6)  
Coxen (6) G Dean (4)  
Pettyjohn (2) G Bird (3)

Heppner won the preliminary second team game, 29-13. This coming Saturday, the local team will meet Hermiston on the latter's home floor.

## Dr. McMurdo to Head President's Ball

Dr. A. D. McMurdo received telegraphic notification this week of his appointment as Morrow county chairman again for President Roosevelt's annual ball to benefit infantile paralysis sufferers. Dr. McMurdo served in this capacity two years ago.

The ball is slated for January 30, and Dr. McMurdo expected to make committee appointments shortly.

## BLAHM-PETERSON

Miss Norma M. Blahm, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Blahm of Hermiston, and Harry Peterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Peterson of Ione, were married at Pasco, Wash., Nov. 12. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Isaacson of Echo were witnesses. After a short honeymoon in Portland, Mr. and Mrs. Peterson will reside at Ione.

## Earle Bryant Named New Deputy Sheriff

Earle Bryant has been chosen to succeed Elbert L. Cox as deputy sheriff beginning January first, Cox having resigned to devote his time to farming interests and operation of the Hardman-Eight Mile stage run. Cox has served the county efficiently throughout the two terms of C. J. D. Bauman as sheriff, being in charge of tax collections.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryant have purchased the former Van Marter residence on North Main street where they will reside. They have been living for some time at the farm home of Mrs. Bryant's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Thompson.

Mrs. Neva Cochell, deputy for the past several years in the tax department, has been advanced to chief tax collector.

## High School Operetta Comes Tomorrow

Time for the annual high school operetta, this year entitled, "Ask the Professor," is drawing near.

Just so you won't miss it or be late, it is to be held Friday, tomorrow, at 8:00 p. m. in the school gymnasium. The admission charge is 15 cents for grade school pupils, 25 cents for high school students, and 35 cents for adults.

Let's all put it down in our memorandum: "See the high school operetta."

## Eastern Star Elects; Install Jointly, 20th

Ruth Chapter 32, Order of Eastern Star, elected officers for the new year at Friday evening's meeting. Joint installation of officers with Masonic Blue lodge will be held at Masonic hall next Tuesday evening, preceded by the annual 6:30 o'clock turkey feed.

Chapter officers named were Faye Ferguson, worthy matron; Robert Wightman, worthy patron; Madge Thomson, associate matron; W. O. Dix, associate patron; Etta Parker, conductress; Ella Bengel, associate conductress; Muriel Vaughn, secretary; Emma Evans, treasurer.

## Short Term Circuit Court Conducted

Judge C. L. Sweek of Pendleton was in the city Monday for opening of the December term of circuit court, hearing a few cases at law and equity. No true bills had been returned for the session and there were no criminal cases to be tried.

There appearing no demand for a new grand jury with opening of the regular term the grand jury was not summoned at this time.

## Morrow First Among Counties Finishing Tax Foreclosure

Alfred, Bauman Tell Lions of State Meet; School Rumor Spiked

That the sheriff's office and Morrow county citizens are to be commended for the good showing of tax collections in this county, was the assertion of Frank C. Alfred, district attorney, before the Monday Lions luncheon. Alfred and Sheriff C. J. D. Bauman both brought reports from the annual convention of sheriff's and district attorneys of Oregon, held in Portland last week end.

At the convention, Alfred interviewed district attorneys from many other counties and found that in all instances Morrow county was the only county so far to complete its delinquent tax foreclosure. This, he said, was due to the exceptionally good tax payments in this county which kept down the number of parcels, and efficiency of the Sheriff's office.

Both officers reported full convention sessions with not time enough to complete business on the dockets. The sheriffs didn't get around to tax collection matters at all, said Bauman. An interesting entertainment feature was a visit to the Oregon medical school and the "baby" crime laboratory there maintained. The laboratory was termed baby because, while quite extensive, it has not been so long established and is still quite incomplete. Both sheriffs and district attorneys passed a resolution favoring the coming legislature making an appropriation to assist its development, as it is a public benefactor as a major agency for combatting crime.

Another recommendation in the public interest came from the district attorneys, said Alfred. It endorsed the Washington parole system for state penitentiary sentences. Under this system a judge must make a fixed maximum sentence for crimes of like nature, and a parole board then studies particular cases and determines whether a parole at an earlier date is advisable. In Oregon, judges may, at time of sentence give varying terms for crimes of the same nature and may also recommend leniency.

Alden Blankenship added to report on the school situation given the week previous by answering a misinformed rumor that he was favoring school district consolidation to perpetuate the superintendent in office. He pointed out that clearly, under the law, any board of directors has complete power of hiring and firing a superintendent.

Club guests included Dr. Neil Black, medical consultant with the state relief set-up, and Miss Dow, his assistant, from Portland; Mrs. Clara Beamer, local relief manager; Lt. Marius P. Hanford, commandant of Camp Heppner, and Capt. F. A. Railing, dentist from CCC headquarters at Lewiston, Idaho.

## of School Plans Elks Slate Debate

Heppner lodge 358, B. P. O. Elks will hear a committee report at its regular meeting this evening preliminary to staging a debate on the proposed school organization changes for the county to stimulate dissemination of information.

Tonight, also, Francis V. Galloway, district deputy grand exalted ruler for Oregon north, will make his official visit. Initiation and "feed" are slated on the evening's program.

## Theater and Elks Announce Free Show

Star theater and Heppner lodge 358, B. P. O. Elks, have set their annual free Christmas show for kiddies of the county on Saturday, Dec. 21. All youngsters of the county are cordially invited to attend.

The free show has been an annual feature for many years, and each year has become more popular.