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Wool Growers to Meet at Burns First of Next Week

State Convention Opens Sunday With Committee Meets

Attention of woolmen of the state will center on Burns this week end when the annual convention of the Oregon Wool Growers association will be held. Weather permitting, it is anticipated that this will be one of the outstanding conventions in the history of the association as reservations for living accommodations indicate a heavy attendance.

Morrow county sheepmen will be well represented, although a complete count of those going from here was not available this morning. Those going from here will drive through, unless a shift in weather conditions within the next day or two makes that method of travel inadvisable. An effort to secure passengers for a special Pullman which the railroad company proposed to run from The Dalles failed here as the distance by rail is much greater and requires more time than most of the woolmen wish to spare.

One matter that seems certain of receiving much attention at the Burns meeting is that of reduction of grazing allotments on the national forests. It is a subject agitating local growers and doubtless those of all sections of the state. According to reports drastic reductions have been made in numbers of sheep and cattle to be grazed on the national forests in 1940, reductions which the stockmen feel are not justified.

Committees meeting at 1:30 p. m., Sunday, include those on Grazing and Public Lands, Mac Hoke, Pendleton, chairman, Garnet Best, Enterprise, secretary; Legislation and Taxation, Robert L. Weir, Lakeview, chairman, Victor Johnson, Lakeview, secretary; Transportation and Marketing, Fred Phillips, Keating, chairman, P. T. Fortner, Baker, secretary; Wild Life and Predatory Animals, Wayne Stewart, Dayville, chairman, Ralph Brooke, Canyon City, secretary, and General Resolutions and Organization, Ralph I. Thompson, Heppner, chairman, R. M. McKennon, Ontario, secretary.

Subjects to be discussed are the New State Brand Law, by Dr. W. H. Lytle, state department of agriculture, Salem; Oregon Land Use Problems, F. L. Ballard, vice-director of extension, Oregon State college; What the National is Doing for the Oregon Wool Growers, F. R. Marshall, secretary National Wool Growers' association; The Sheep Business in the Immediate Future, Orlo H. Maughan, director of research, Federal Land Bank of Spokane; Building Western Livestock Ranges, George Weaver, in charge AAA range program, western division; Forestry and Livestock, John Kuhns, regional forester, Portland; National Parks and Livestock, Jay H. Dobbin, Enterprise, and The Federal Range, E. N. Kavanagh, chief of range management in the grazing service.

The wool growers' banquet will be a feature of the entertainment side.

Rangers to Issue Grazing Permits

A new ruling on the matter of issuing grazing permits for use of the national forest now makes it possible for applications to be made at rangers' offices. Heretofore the permits were issued only at the supervisor's office.

All applications for the 1940 season should be submitted prior to January 31 to receive consideration, according to F. F. Wehmeyer, ranger in charge of the Heppner office.

Jail Terms, Fines Given Wreckers

Arrested and placed in jail on a disorderly conduct charge, three members of Camp Heppner are now serving out long jail sentences on a more serious charge. The three youths, Forest Guy Miller, Mark Gorton and Farrel West, were picked up Saturday evening by Night Marshal Homer Hayes when it became evident that too much indulgence in holiday spirits had gotten the best of the them. Hayes first picked up Miller and West and when Gorton attempted to intervene for his pals the marshal took him also.

Launched in the county jail, the youths continued their jamboree so rudely interrupted by the marshal. Windows were broken to let in fresh air and just to round out the night the pranksters broke up about all the furniture.

Haled before Justice of the Peace J. O. Hager Tuesday morning the youths pled guilty and after giving all angles of the case due consideration the justice meted out six-months jail sentences for each and fined Miller \$50, Gorton \$100 and West \$200. Gorton and West had previous counts against them which Justice Hager felt entitled them to a heavier jolt than their pal.

Jail sentences will be suspended if the prisoners come forth with the fine money. This conduct on the part of the youths automatically discharges them from the Civilian Conservation corps.

Casaba League Play Starts Against Condon

Heppner high's Mustang basket-
ers begin defense of their Upper Columbia league championship Friday night in a game with Condon. A second team game will start at 7:15.

The Mustangs expect an uphill battle to maintain their league lead this year as five of the members of last year's squad are gone. However a good showing is expected as the four returning veterans will be aided by last year's unbeaten second team.

In a four-game pre-season schedule the Mustangs succeeded in breaking even, winning two and losing two. This was considered a fairly good showing for an inexperienced team that played three of the four games away from home.

Nothing is known of the Condon team's strength as there have been no reports on their games. It is expected that they will bring a strong team as they are now playing in a new gymnasium which was completed last spring and is one of the finest in this section of the country.

Heppner's squad includes Doug Drake, Hugh Crawford, Harry O'Donnell, Howard Wray, Bob Pinckney, Jack Merrill, Norval Osborne, Claude Snow, John Skuzeski.

Tax Collections Go Over Good in 1939

Tax collections in Morrow county during 1939 proved highly satisfactory to county officials, according to County Clerk C. W. Barlow, who cites figures to bear out the statement.

The current tax roll at the beginning of the year was \$281,489.99. At the close of the year the balance to be collected was \$44,437.19. Not alone were current taxes paid up. Delinquent taxes in the sum of \$68,586.93 were collected during the year. Payment of delinquent taxes has shown a decided increase the last two years.

Assessor Tom Wells and deputies are winding up the tax roll extension this week with their attention directed to the final summary.

Elaine Nelson and Jane Huston, students at the University of Oregon, returned to Eugene Monday after spending the Christmas vacation at their homes in the Gooseberry section.

Court Withholds Action on Claim For Sheep Loss

Dog License Fund Not Enough to Meet Bill of Ray Wright

Loss of 372 head of sheep in a pile-up last Thursday night is causing members of the Morrow county court to scratch their heads. The court, in session Wednesday and Thursday of this week, was presented a claim for damages by Ray Wright, who suffered the loss of the sheep.

The loss happened at the Wright corrals due, it is asserted to dogs stampeding the sheep. Based on present sheep prices, Wright presented a claim averaging \$10 per head. This amount is far in excess of the fund which is accumulated through the sale of dog licenses, as the licenses issued average between 300 and 350 yearly.

Before making a payment of any nature the court proposes to make an investigation and will base its action on such findings. It has not been made clear that one or more of Wright's dogs did not participate in the stampede.

Aside from the usual routine business, the court is making selection of election boards to serve during 1940.

DIRECTORS ACCEPT C. OF C. BY-LAWS

Presentation for Adoption to Be Made at Membership Luncheon January 12

One more step toward completion of organization of the Heppner chamber of commerce was made Wednesday evening when the board of directors read and approved the by-laws as drawn up by P. W. Mahoney. The next step will be presentation of the articles to the membership at a luncheon meeting to be held Friday, Jan. 12, at Hotel Heppner.

Directors settled the matter of one- and two-year service periods by the process of drawing names.

The five men chosen to serve one year include D. M. Ward, L. E. Bisbee, C. J. D. Bauman, P. W. Mahoney and Charles B. Cox. The two-year directors are B. C. Pinckney, Frank W. Turner, D. A. Wilson, W. C. Rosewall and Hanson Hughes.

At each annual election, which will be held on the second Tuesday of January, five directors will be chosen for two years.

Several projects of interest not alone to Heppner but to the county were placed on the calendar for immediate attention and these will be presented to the membership for approval. Indications point to a busy year for the chamber of commerce and after the January 12 meeting the president will appoint committees to carry on the work.

Gooseberry Station Reports on Rainfall

Precipitation for the year 1939 in the Gooseberry section amounted to 7.25 inches, according to V. L. Carlson, observer for that district. Rainfall for the month of December was 1.70 inches, eight points less than recorded in Heppner.

From Sept. 1, 1939 to Jan. 1, 1940 the precipitation was 2.61 inches, Carlson states. Compared with 1938 this was a shortage of 10 points, the fall that year amounting to 2.71 inches.

Reports from all wheat growing and grazing sections show that the recent rains have penetrated deeply into the soil and that growing conditions are excellent.

1939 Driest Period Recorded Locally

Midnight Sunday marked the end of the driest period in Morrow county since the official recording of precipitation was started 30 years ago. Although December showed a decided improvement, with a total fall of 1.78 inches, the total for the year was still less by .39 inch than 1928, when the total was 8.20 inch.

Compared with 1937 when the precipitation amounted to 14.76 inches, 1939 was a dry year. It is pointed out, however, that moisture fell at the right time to aid the crops, resulting in a fairly good yield over the county. Observers state it is a peculiarity of this section that unless rain comes in May or June, or both months, crops are apt to be short, whereas, rainfall coming in those months is fairly accurate crop insurance.

The rain which started early in December and came at first in minor showers, gradually developed into steadier precipitation until towards the end of the month it became steady. Very little snow fell and the accompanying fog has tended to prevent frost, permitting the moisture to penetrate the surface of the ground.

Range Checks for County Received

The first group of checks in payment of 1939 range conservation practices were received in Morrow county January 3, according to E. H. Miller, chairman of the local ACA committee. Mr. Miller stated that 47 range operators whose combined holdings total over 400,000 acres were signed up in the 1939 program.

Mr. Miller went on to say that program payments are intended primarily to encourage range conservation and are made to cooperating ranchers for carrying out recognized range improvement practices, such as natural reseeding of native grasses, by non-grazing during growing season, development of springs and drilling of wells to provide water for range stock, artificial reseeding of over-grazed and denuded areas to adapted pasture grasses, erosion control, and many other practical improvements.

The range program is important in that it gives operators a chance to learn the value of practices that otherwise would have to be postponed or put off altogether. Practices approved under the program will contribute to a better range for years to come.

Home Ec Meetings Set for Next Week

Third in a series of home economics meetings on food preparation and table service will be held in Morrow county next week. Lucy Case, foods and nutrition specialist from Oregon State college, will conduct the meetings. The first meeting will be held at the Frederickson home in Irrigon, January 9, with Mrs. Fred Houghton as chairman.

January 10 a meeting will be held in the Rhea Creek grange hall with Mrs. Carrie Becket as chairman; and a meeting will be held in the new grange hall in Ione, with Mrs. Vida Heliker as chairman, January 11. The last meeting will be held January 12 in the Boardman grange hall with Mrs. Neal Bleakney as chairman.

All homemakers are invited to these meetings whether they have attended the other two meetings or not.

DISCUSS FARM ACCOUNTING

All farmers who are interested in the keeping of farm accounts are invited to attend a meeting to be held in the county agent's office at 9 a. m., Friday, January 5. The use of the recently published farm account book will be discussed, as well as various time in the keeping of farm records.

Lexington Civic Leader Succumbs After Hard Battle

W. F. Barnett, Merchant, Farmer, Victim of Heart Disease

Victim of a heart ailment which had confined him to bed for more than three weeks, W. F. Barnett, merchant-farmer and civic leader of Lexington for many years, was called by death Friday, December 29. Funeral services, attended by a large number of relatives and friends, were held from the Lexington Christian church at 2 o'clock p. m., Sunday, Dec. 21. Case mortuary of Heppner was in charge and Rev. Cecil Warner of Hermiston officiated. Assisting in the service was Rev. Moffatt Dennis of Lexington who sang three hymns selected by Mr. Barnett a few days prior to his death, "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go," "No Night There" and "Beside Still Waters." Interment was in the Lexington cemetery.

William Frazer Barnett came to Morrow county in the spring of 1884, coming from Milton where he had stopped a few weeks after arriving in Oregon from Arkansas. A native of Tennessee, where he was born November 30, 1858, the son of L. W. and Julia Ann Barnett, he spent his early youth in that state and moved from there to Arkansas where he grew to manhood. On October 14, 1880 he took as his bride Miss Mary Ella Nichols, the wedding taking place near Mountain Home, Ark. Two daughters were born to this union, Mrs. Trina Parker and Miss Dona E. Barnett, who with the mother survive. A brother, T. L. Barnett of Lexington, and a sister, Mrs. Julia Cybert of Tacoma, Wash. There are also several nephews and nieces.

Mr. Barnett homesteaded when he first came to Morrow county. His first filing was on a piece of land near Lexington and he later abandoned that in favor of the Blackhorse section. He farmed the Blackhorse place for many years and in 1900 bought the present Barnett farm about five miles northeast of Lexington. In 1902 he moved to Lexington and engaged in the grocery business, occupying a small building formerly used by Nichols & Leach as a mercantile establishment. Changing conditions in Lexington presented an opportunity for Mr. Barnett to expand and in 1915 he enlarged the building to its present size and engaged in general merchandising. His enterprise was rewarded with success and the W. F. Barnett & Co. store is one of the substantial mercantile establishments of the county.

Always manifesting an active interest in the well being of the community, Mr. Barnett served as mayor, councilman and school board member with credit to himself and benefit to those served. This interest never diminished, even after he was stricken, and he spent his declining days planning on improvements to his farm and business. He also took an active part in church work, being a member of the Christian church which he served faithfully for more than 50 years. He was also a member of the Oddfellows for more than 30 years.

Relatives coming from a distance to attend the funeral services included Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Nichols, Puyallup, Wash.; N. A. Leach, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Dopplemeyer, Portland; Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Miller, Salem; Mr. and Mrs. Milton Loney, Walla Walla; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald White, Hermiston; Mr. and Mrs. Neil White and son Vivian, Hidaway Springs; Mr. and Mrs. Ione Gilbreath, Dayton, Wash., and Dr. and Mrs. M. A. Leach and son Jimmie of Pendleton.