

# Heppner Gazette Times

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## Fire in Potamus Area Calls Out Large CCC Force

### Approximately 500 Acres Burned Over Before Controlled

Uncle Sam's "brush marines" were called into action Monday afternoon when a fire was reported in the Potamus district and by Tuesday a crew of 190 fire fighters was on the line struggling to bring the blaze under control. A contingent of 57 CCC boys was rushed to the scene from Camp Heppner and the Lena spike camp, 25 were taken from Ukiah and 75 from the Squaw Creek camp. In addition, 20 men were sent from the Kinzua logging camp and these with the forest service crew were able to check the spread of the fire Wednesday morning.

Timber and underbrush are thick in the Potamus district, making fire fighting difficult. A small fire hit that area last week following an electrical storm and it is thought that a smoldering tree may have been the cause of the larger fire. When discovered, the fire was spreading rapidly and soon covered an area of about 300 acres. By Tuesday evening it was estimated to have expanded to 500 acres. Threatening skies Tuesday failed to deliver much needed rain and the humidity increased the fire hazard.

Quantities of food supplies were rushed to the Potamus district Monday afternoon and Tuesday in preparation for any eventuality. Meat, bread and canned goods, including a generous quantity of coffee, made up the bulk of the order going from town.

Reports reaching here Wednesday indicated that Oregon's two major forest fires, the 2500-acre Dee burn in the Mount Hood national forest, and the 600-acre Blowout creek fire of northern Linn county, were under control Tuesday. Light rains were said to have aided fire fighters in putting down burns in other areas of the northwest, giving rise to the belief that logging operations suspended in some quarters would be resumed in a few days.

## Commercial Group Supports Officials

At a called meeting held at Hotel Heppner last evening the Heppner chamber of commerce passed a resolution supporting the county court in its action relative to the proposed bombing field and at the same time suggested that the court submit a counter proposal to the army in the matter of locating the entire operation in Morrow county, provided the site here is chosen.

There was no disposition on the part of the chamber of commerce to stir up opposition to the bombing field, the attitude being that if the project is to be located here the county should make every effort to realize as much as possible from it. To that end an invitation has been extended to Captain Gates, the Arlington commercial club and other Gilliam county citizens, users of the grazing district, the Morrow county court and all others interested to meet here, possibly Friday evening at a dinner, to give each group an opportunity to lay their cards on the table.

## SUFFERS SLIGHT WOUND

Howard Bryant received a minor wound in the right forearm on July 4 when a .22 pistol with which he and some friends were playing was accidentally discharged. While the wound was not serious it kept him from his work at the bank for the remainder of the week but he was back on the job Monday.

## NOXIOUS WEED PROGRAM STARTS

### Russian Knap, White Top Being Attacked With County Help; Control Measures Outlined

A control and eradication program for all Russian Knapweed and White Top in Morrow county is now under way, according to C. D. Conrad, county agent, who was recently appointed weed inspector by the county court.

Approximately 150 acres of these weeds have been located and mapped in the county and the object of the present program, Conrad says, is to do away with these weeds before they reach the serious proportions which they have reached in other counties and states.

The county court, recognizing the seriousness of these weeds and the fact that it is only a matter of time before badly infested farms revert to the county for taxes, is cooperating with the farmers in the eradication program. A rubber tired tractor and cultivator was purchased by the county this week to be used on all the infested areas which are large enough to cultivate.

Conrad says that the continued cultivation method, which is the cheapest method of eradication, will be used on the larger acreages and chemicals applied to the smaller areas and along fence rows, ditch banks and creeks.

Practically all of the farmers contacted thus far are anxious to enter into the agreements to pay the actual cost of gas and oil and the operator's wages where the cultivation method is used. The county furnishes the necessary equipment.

Where chemicals are used the county furnishes the necessary labor and equipment and the farmer pays for the actual cost of the chemical.

If any farmers have either of these weeds and has not been contacted he should leave word at the county agent's office so work can begin as soon as possible on his farm.

## Oasis at Boardman Destroyed by Fire

Fire which started about 11 o'clock a. m. Saturday destroyed the Oasis service station and eating place at Boardman. The blaze started in the diesel engine room and despite heroic efforts quickly spread to envelop the adjoining lunch room. The entire plant was consumed.

The Oasis was the property of E. W. Peck, who also operates a tourist cabin business. Fortunately the fire was confined to the one building, for had it spread to the cabins the entire town would have been endangered.

Eleven fire extinguishers were hurled into the engine room in an effort to check the blaze, a report from Boardman states, but they were ineffective and the fire spread so rapidly that nothing but the cash registers were removed from the building. The diesel plant had been furnishing electric service to the town.

## 1940 Wheat Loans Same Basis as '39

Wheat loans under the AAA will be on the same basis in 1940 as in 1939, a meeting of district representatives from several eastern Oregon counties learned at Arlington Monday. The only difference to be felt on the Heppner branch and other territory embraced in the ruling will be an increase of 1.2 cents per bushel on wheat due to reduced freight rates. That automatically raises the loan value to 61.6 cents per bushel as against 60.04 cents last year.

The Morrow county office is now prepared to receive applications for loans, according to Merle Cummings, secretary of the Morrow County Agricultural Conservation committee.

Attending the meeting from this county were R. B. Rice, Merle Cummings, Mrs. Alma Green and Miss Florence Bergstrom.

## Wild Steers to Perform Daily At 1940 Rodeo

### Ken Depew's Brahmas to Match Skill With Local Riders

Heppner Rodeo's slogan, "She's Wild!" will be given added significance at the 1940 show. The Rodeo association has signed up for a herd of Brahma steers which will be used to inject excitement into the program each afternoon. A contract was signed this week with Kenneth Depew of Long Creek to bring his string of eight Brahmas over the mountains to perform in Heppner's western classic.

To use a common expression, these steers know their stuff and do plenty of it when turned loose in the arena. When turned out of the chute with riders on their backs they have but one desire and that is to get rid of the rider. Some are tougher than others, just as some riders are better than others, but it is said that "Sleepy," prize buckner of the herd, defies any rider to stick on his back for as much as 10 seconds. In fact, so sure is the Rodeo association that no rider can stay with Sleepy for that period that a purse of \$50 will be paid to the man who does.

Introduction of the Brahmas to the Rodeo was decided upon as a substitute for the bulldogging which has been part of the program in years past. Riding the animals should prove more exciting and it is less dangerous than bulldogging, officials of the association believe.

With the Rodeo but a little more than a month away, interest this week has centered on the queen's dances. The first dance will be held at the Rhea Creek grange hall Saturday evening. The 1940 queen and her attendants have been selected and announcement will be made at 11 o'clock Saturday evening at this dance. The committee is tight-lipped regarding the selections and no intimation has been given regarding the fortunate young ladies. Those who have a yen to be in on the ground floor will have to attend the dance.

The second queen's dance will be held at the Willows grange hall in Ione Saturday evening, July 20. Lexington grange following on July 27 and the final dance will be held at Heppner, August 10.

## McLaughlins Pass 25th Anniversary

The home of Mr. and Mrs. C. N. McLaughlin at the head of McDonald canyon was the scene of an ingathering of relatives Sunday, the cause being the 25th wedding anniversary of the host and hostess. All of the McLaughlin children were home for the event and the visitors included several members of Mrs. McLaughlin's family and other relatives.

Mary Doherty and Cor N. McLaughlin were married at St. Patrick's church in Heppner July 6, 1915. They set up housekeeping at the ranch house in McDonald canyon which has been their home throughout their married life.

## TICKETS AVAILABLE

Tickets for the lawn party to be staged at Camp Heppner have been placed on sale at several business houses and may also be obtained at the camp, according to Lieut. Marius P. Hanford, camp commander. In town they may be obtained at the following places: Hotel Heppner, Gordon's Pharmacy, Rexall Drug store, Humphreys Drug Co., J. C. Penney Co., Standard Stations, Merrill's cafe, Pacific Power & Light Co.

## FIRST LOGS GO THRU NEW MILL

### Machinery Set in Motion This Morning With Actual Cutting Starting at 9:10

Without fanfare, tooting of whistles or any other ballyhoo, the Heppner Lumber company's new plant began operations this morning, with the first log going on to the saw at about 9:10 o'clock. As the big band saw ripped through the knotty pine stick that had the distinction of being the first log on the carriage, it was apparent that the new plant is a smooth running machine, which will prove a credit to the community, and certainly a lot of satisfaction to the builder, Orville Smith.

Steam has been up at the mill for several days in order to test the boilers and motors. With all machinery in place and adjustments made it was decided to give the plant a test today. Shortly after 8 a. m. the steam was applied and the entire unit was set in motion. It was found that the band saw was a little out of line and after adjustments were made there and on other parts of the machinery the go ahead signal was given and the first log rolled onto the carriage. Small logs were used for the tryout and it was not possible for the reporter to stay longer to see some of the bigger sticks brought up from the pond.

An interested spectator at the opening of the mill was Leonard Kraft of the Bridal Veil Lumber and Box company and official of the local company. He was highly complimentary of the job Smith has done in erecting the new mill and is confident of a successful operation here.

A force of 25 men was employed at the plant this morning. This will be increased some as pilers and other workmen are needed to complete the operation.

## French Tells of Redistricting

Redistricting the state for selection of legislators, which the constitution provides shall be done at the first session immediately following each ten-year federal census, will be a major problem before the coming legislative session, says Representative Giles L. French of Moro, who with Mrs. French was visiting in the county Saturday.

Recommendations for such redistricting are now being formulated by a joint house-senate interim committee of which Representative French is a member. Committee sessions so far indicate that the problem will be a knotty one, though final census figures are not yet available for the committee's perusal, and these must serve as final basis for their report to the session convening next January.

While November's ballot remains to determine whether he will be privileged to serve his district at the coming session, French said that if such be the will of the voters he will exert his best efforts to obtain just representation in both house and senate for the mid-Columbia counties. Such counties as Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman, Wheeler, Grant and Jefferson are handicapped through low population far out of proportion to their economic importance to the state, he said, and it is no little problem to obtain just recognition from the more populous centers, who, naturally, wish to maintain or strengthen legislative power.

Mr. and Mrs. French came to the county on business in connection with farming interests in the Gooseberry district which caused them to call at the county seat.

## SHIPS TO CHICAGO

C. W. McNamer shipped three carloads of sheep to the Chicago market on Tuesday's train. The cars were all double deckers and were filled from the flocks of John Bergstrom, Jim Hams, Floyd Adams, Walter Becket, Ray Pettyjohn and Joe Mahon.

## Word Battle Over Proposed Bombing Field Ends in Draw

### Army, Court Fail to Reach Agreement on Road Proposal

A heavy verbal bombardment between the members of the Morrow county court and Captain John C. Gates of the United States army failed to clear the way for establishment of an army bombing field in the northern part of Morrow county Tuesday, and so far as the court is concerned the proposition remains about where it did before the captain's visit.

Accompanied by Dave Lemon, E. M. Hulden and Earl Kunzman of Arlington, Captain Gates met with the court at 1:30 o'clock p. m. Tuesday for the purpose of requesting abandonment of the Ione-Boardman highway across property designated as a tentative bombing field. The demand was made in a peremptory manner and without preliminary warning, leaving Judge Bert Johnson and Commissioner L. D. Neill somewhat speechless, temporarily. Directing his remarks to the judge, the captain is reported to have referred to fifth column activities and other uncomplimentary statements, including a lack of patriotism on the part of the county court, members of which body he accused of attempting to hamper the program of national defense.

Judge Johnson vigorously denied the charges and tried to impress the captain with the fact that the court has a duty to perform and that there is no remuneration in sight for withdrawal of this large tract of land. A petition which was supposed to be presented to the court asking vacation of the Ione-Boardman road was not presented. There were no other papers in evidence upon which could be based a transaction. For that reason the court refused to entertain the proposal for immediate action relative to closing the road.

Following Judge Johnson, Commissioner Neill took up the battle and when he had finished the captain was less insistent in his demands. The court recognizes the fact that if the northern Morrow county site is the one most nearly meeting the army's needs for a bombing field it will be the site chosen, Neill stated. There is no inclination on the part of the court or any interested citizens to hamper or delay the program for national defense, he added, but it is reasonable for the court to seek a readjustment of the tax set-up of the county, which will be thrown out of line if and when the property is taken over by the army.

Commissioner George Peck was a little late in arriving and was unaware of the fireworks which opened the meeting. After learning the import of events he joined the other members of the court in defending the county's rights.

Arlington's interest in the bombing field was further manifested Tuesday evening when three delegates from the American Legion post visited the Heppner Legion post and urged the members to put pressure on the county court to vacate the Ione-Boardman road. Wednesday afternoon Judge Johnson received a visit from E. R. Fatland and Judge James Burns of Condon. Due to the fact that the other members of the court could not be present, the judge listened to the plea of the visitors but refused to commit himself or the court as to future action.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Case returned to Heppner Tuesday from Baker and Weiser, where they visited with Mr. and Mrs. Harold Case and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Evans.