

Car Stealers Land In 'Pen' In 24 Hours From Time of Act

Justice Meted Rapidly to Wreckers of McCurdy Auto

Lawrence Graham, 18, and Robert Presnall, 20, are two disillusioned youths who helped Morrow county establish a new record for speed in its highest court of justice.

Within 24 hours from the time that the recent Camp Heppner CCC enrollees drove off with the Harlan McCurdy car, they were checked in as charges of the state in the penal institution at Salem.

It was somewhere in the proximity of 10 o'clock last Thursday night when Graham and Presnall drove off in the McCurdy car, parked in front of the Jones apartments where the McCurdy's reside. At 11:30 they had been lodged in the county jail and officers were in possession of a fully signed confession.

By noon Friday they had been sentenced by Judge C. L. Sweek to two years in the penitentiary, and Sheriff C. J. D. Bauman and Homer Hayes, city policeman, left with them for Salem right after noon, having them all registered in shortly after supper time.

Too much speed was the young men's undoing, as one of them admitted later to Mr. McCurdy that the speedometer registered 95 just before the car overturned on a curve just east of Lexington, hardly nine miles down the road. The car was demolished, as it rolled over an estimated, four times, but the youths escaped with slight scratches and bruises.

Mr. McCurdy was at Elks lodge when notified that his car had been found in the ditch. He had left the car with the key in it for Mrs. McCurdy to use. However, she had decided to bowl with Mrs. Alva Jones, and had walked up town not thinking to remove the key. Immediately Mr. McCurdy found that Mrs. McCurdy was not involved in the accident, he went to the scene of the wreck with Deputy Sheriff Earle Bryant, Bob Runnion and Mr. Goodrich, an attorney from Baker in the city on court business.

They found the car deserted. On sizing up the situation, just as the branch train pulled into Lexington, going down the line, Mr. McCurdy suggested that the wrongdoers might try to get away on the train. Bryant and Runnion immediately followed up the lead, and it was but a few moments later that the youths were taken from on top the train.

When taken into custody they were merely told that they were wanted in Heppner for questioning and no reference was made to the stolen car, and as they came upon the wreck the custodians evidenced surprise. They alighted with the boys, one of whom remarked that he surely would have hated to have been in the car when it turned over. Blood signs on the seat cushions and newly cut places on the boys soon led the searchers to know that they had the right parties, and the boys were ready to make the confession, transcribed in full by Mr. Goodrich, by the time they reached the courthouse. The boys signed it, and on arraignment in court the next morning they waived information by the grand jury and entered a direct plea of guilty.

Taken to Salem with them was Homer Sims, who on arraignment in circuit court at the same session, entered plea of guilty to theft of two rifles from Harry French, and of a saddle from the Sam Turner ranch, and was sentenced to two years in the state penitentiary.

On Friday, the 21st, the Heppner high school student body will meet to decide several more questions that have been bothering everyone.

14th Win Taken at Expense of Condon

The Mustangs posted their 14th win Friday night, at the expense of Condon. The final score was 26-30. It looked like Condon was going to stage an upset and win the game until the last two minutes. They were in the lead throughout the game and outplayed the Mustangs until the last quarter. In the last quarter the Heppner squad suddenly awakened and outscored Condon, 12-3. The winning basket was made with less than two minutes to play. Joe Burns and Claude Snow each scored 10 points for high point honors on their respective teams.

The second team and the FFA team of Heppner both scored easy victories over the Condon teams.

Heppner 30	Condon 26
Blakely 1	f..... Potter
Skuzeski 6	f..... Fatland 7
Snow 10	c..... T. Burns 7
Pinckney 4	g..... Chambers 1
Crawford 5	g..... J. Burns 10
Barratt 4	s..... Boyer
Evans	s..... Simonds 1
Scrivner	s.....

The Heppner Mustangs will make their last home appearance of the season against Fossil tomorrow (Friday) night. The Fossil team stands at the bottom of the league but have been improving all season and are expected to make the Heppner boys extend themselves to win.

Arlington will be playing Condon on the same evening. Should both Heppner and Arlington win, then some kind of play-off will be necessary to determine the winner of the Wheat league. If either of the two lose, the other will be the league winner.

Lions-BPW Enjoy Get-Together Dinner

Fifty Lions and wives and members of Business and Professional Womens club enjoyed a get-together dinner party at the schoolhouse last evening. High school domestic science girls served the tasty dinner, interspersed by a program under direction of Clifford Conrad, Lions president.

The Valentine motif was used in place cards and decorations.

Both Conrad and Miss Rose Liebbrand, BPW president, stressed national defense in telling of their organizations' work. Group singing, directed by Russell McNeill, readings by Clarence Bauman, and a pantomime by Mrs. Lucy E. Rodgers and the Misses Harriet Pointer, Marjorie Parker and Florence Bergstrom, completed the program. A social hour was enjoyed in the music room following the dinner.

To Open Bids on Two Highways in County

Bids will be opened in Portland, Feb. 27 and 28, on two road projects of much interest to Morrow county, announces the state highway commission.

One project calls for grading .16 miles and surfacing and oiling 9.2 miles of the Jones Hill-Lena sector of the Oregon-Washington highway.

The other project calls for grading and topping 6.92 miles and constructing two timber bridges on Gilliam county-Zinter ranch sector of the Wasco-Heppner secondary highway.

Both these projects had been previously announced as on the slate for 1941.

E. O. Assessors To Be Here Tomorrow

The association of eastern Oregon assessors, including assessors from 18 counties east of the Cascades will convene in Heppner tomorrow beginning at 11 o'clock at the courthouse, announces Tom Wells, Morrow county assessor, who is president of the association.

Mr. Wells expects that at least 14 or 15 assessors from counties included in the organization, will be present to discuss problems common to the several counties.

Farm Economic Conference Lays Basis for Action

Reports of Committees Up for Discussion Wednesday

The outlook for agricultural exports and markets, and the outlook for farm family living was studied and discussed at a meeting of the Morrow county economic conference committee held in the courthouse last Thursday.

E. R. Jackman, extension specialist in farm crops, discussed the farm outlook and stated that there is a chance for an increase in the demand and price in perishable farm produce, dairy and livestock produce but the outlook for stable crops, including wheat, is quite dark.

With 40 percent of the farm population living on diets considered inadequate there is room for real improvement in the line of nutrition to meet the national preparedness program, according to Mrs. Azalea Sager, state home demonstration leader, who discussed farm family living situations at the conference. However, Mrs. Sager stated that much of the malnutrition among the farm population was in the south and not in the northwest.

Considering the present agricultural outlook, indications are that the money which will be available for family living on the farms will be less in the next few years than it has been in the past and Mrs. Sager stated that care will need to be taken in the budgeting of family living expenses and encouraged the raising of more food on the farm.

The importance of controlling soil erosion and maintaining soil fertility at the present time in preparing for the time when the fertility of the land may be more greatly needed was discussed by Arthur King, extension specialist in soils.

Earl Thompson, farmer fieldman for the AAA, discussed the ways in which the AAA program may be used in helping to carry out the recommendations of the county land use and other conference committees.

The county sub-committees on land use, crops and livestock met Friday and Saturday of last week to go into further detailed discussion of the problems related to their committees and to make recommendations in light of new developments in the present world conditions.

The farm and rural life sub-committee will meet in the county agent's office Friday afternoon, Feb. 14, to further study the family living conditions in the county and to make recommendations accordingly.

These reports will all be read, discussed, amended and approved at a second joint meeting of all the committees in the courthouse Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 19.

The forenoon of February 19 will be devoted to a meeting of all community AAA committeemen for studying the 1941 farm program, farm estimate sheets and wheat quotas. The community committeemen will all sit in at the afternoon meeting of the outlook conference.

Miss McCurdy Signs As Student Flyer

Miss Maxine McCurdy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. D. McCurdy of this city and former queen of the Heppner Rodeo, has enlisted as a student flyer at Pacific university where she is in her junior year. Miss McCurdy is taking work for extra credit to entitle her to graduate in January next year.

Miss McCurdy satisfactorily passed the physical examination qualifying her for training as an aviatrix, and her parents this week signed the necessary release for her to take such training.

Legion Auxiliary Starts Essay Contest

The American Legion auxiliary is again sponsoring an Americanism contest for the students of the eighth grade in our school. The girls will write essays and the boys will answer questions on the flag code. The flag code questions will be published each week in the Heppner Gazette Times. The first group of questions follows:

1. What are the primitive beginnings from which may be traced the origin and evolution of the flags of civilized man?
2. What do flags, generally speaking, symbolize.
3. What besides its war achievements does the Flag of the United States represent? Name four definite things.
4. What flags were used before the Continental Congress adopted the Flag of the United States?
5. Describe the first distinctive flag indicating a union of the colonies.
6. When and where was the Flag of the United States adopted?
7. What were the thirteen original states?
8. Tell the story of the writing of the "Star Spangled Banner" and write one verse of this song.
9. Name the parts of our Flag and tell what each symbolizes.
10. Why did our forefathers place stars in the Flag of the United States?

Only 15 Days Left To Insure Spring Wheat

Wheat growers of Morrow county have only 15 days left to apply for all-risk protection on their 1941 spring wheat crop, warns Henry Baker, chairman of the county AAA committee. The deadline is Friday, February 28, after which date the Federal Crop Insurance corporation will not accept crop-insurance applications.

Growers may apply for this "all-risk" type of protection at the county AAA office.

"Last year," Mr. Baker says, "some wheat growers in this county felt the full shock of crop failure because they failed to get their applications filed before the closing date. That need not happen again."

Approximately 198 Morrow county growers have already paid premiums for insurance on their 1941 crop, guaranteeing the production of about 440,335 bushels of wheat despite crop hazards, Mr. Baker declared. In 1940, 55 Morrow county growers collected a total of 26,959 bushels due to unavoidably damaged or destroyed crops.

Fast Fight Card Set Here February 22

Morrow county fight fans will be treated to a fast fight card in the county dance pavilion in Heppner the evening of Saturday, the 22nd, announces C. J. D. Bauman, who with Ben O'Conner of Hermiston, assisted Heppner firemen, sponsors, in arranging the card.

The main event will present Tommy Murray of Boise against Dean Groth who won in the main event at Hermiston last week. Jack Burns, Heppner CCC, will trade blows with Hermiston's favorite son, Sammy McCracken, in the semi final, and preliminaries will include bouts between Missouri Kelsay of Monument and Kid Irish of Pendleton, and Brick Smith of Monument and Pete Atkins of Stanfield. One other local preliminary will complete the card.

ANNUAL STAFF CHOSEN

The staff for the Hehisch annual publication of Heppner high school was chosen this week. Named were Kathryn Thompson, editor; Wanda Howell, assistant editor; Don Bennett, manager; Kay Ferguson, assistant manager; Hugh Crawford, sports; Jean Hays, humor; Frances Wilkinson, dramatics; Jack O'Harra, clubs; Mary Kay Blake, society; Laura Warfield, art; Peg Tamblin, administration; Frances Wilkinson and Mary Kay Blake, typists.

Hearing on Soil Conservation Unit Set for March 14

Official Notice Received in Forming New County District

A public hearing has been set in Heppner on March 18 by the State Soil Conservation Committee of Oregon to discuss all phases of a petition in their hands for establishment of a soil conservation district in Morrow county to be known as the Heppner Soil Conservation district.

Official notice of this hearing appears in another column of this issue, giving legal description of the boundaries. Included is most of the county north of the forest region.

The proposed district is entirely separate from the district in which the Soil Conservation service has been operating locally, but it contemplates getting assistance from this source on an enlarged program of soil conservation work for which a large demand has been shown, according to those who signed the petition.

Should favorable action be taken on organizing the district following the hearing, a vote will then be called of all landowners within the proposed district, when it will be necessary for 70 percent of all owners to vote favorably before the district can be created. Failure to vote at such election will be credited as a no vote, and it is therefore necessary that everyone become fully informed before such election is called.

Specialists Coming to Blow Control Meeting

A complete discussion of soil erosion problems common to Morrow county will be discussed at an all day meeting in the Lexington grange hall beginning at 10 a. m., Saturday, February 15.

Joe Belanger, previously county agent of Morrow county and now working on erosion control research for the Soil Conservation service; Arthur King, extension soils man from the state college; Lynn Harris, of the farm crops department who has conducted the morning glory control experiments in Umatilla county; and Ray Chapin, soil technologist from the Soil Conservation service in Pendleton, will be at the meeting to answer questions and help in the discussion of their related subjects.

Past meetings of the Lexington Blow Control district have always drawn a good crowd and have been of much interest to many of the farmers in the county, and, according to C. D. Conrad, county agent, an interesting program has been arranged for the meeting and everyone in the county who may have erosion problems is invited to attend.

Lunch will be served at noon by the home economics ladies of the Lexington grange.

Four Morrow Men Called in February

Four Morrow county men have been selected by the local selective service board to report at 4 p. m., February 19, 1941, to be sent to an induction station of the United States Army at Portland. They are Leslie Elmer Bleakman, Arthur Robert Patterson, Albert Richard Eytchison, Norman Beryl Griffin.

Francis Byron Nickerson has been selected as a replacement because one or more of the men above may not be inducted at the induction station by the armed forces. Any man required to report as a replacement will be given notice at least five days before he is required to report.