

Heppner Gazette Times



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Crested Wheat Grass Arrives As Major County Crop

Foresight Proves Boon When AAA Program Instituted

Morrow county, with approximately 37,000 acres of former wheat land now producing crested wheat grass, has become the second county in the state in area devoted to this crop, reports C. D. Conrad, county agent. This popular dry land grass has now "arrived" as a major crop in this region, where its use constitutes one of the most striking examples of the advantage of being ready in advance of an agricultural emergency, says Conrad.

Here in Morrow county the first crested wheat grass was seeded in nursery trials in 1925 by Roger Morse, who was then Morrow county agent. Its use has grown steadily since that time, first as a seed crop and more recently for hay and pasture purposes. The AAA program with its wheat acreage limitation and emphasis on soil conservation has provided an opportunity and financial assistance for expanding the acreage, but without the pioneer work of the state college extension service and experiment station, there would have been nothing to expand, says Conrad.

Crested wheat grass was first grown in Oregon at the Moro experiment station, where the first planting was made more than 20 years ago and where a field is still in existence, under continuous pasturage for 23 years. The way this grass stood up through good years and bad at the station turned the attention of eastern Oregon county agents toward it.

When C. W. Smith became county agent in 1926 he continued to work with various grasses and remarked in his annual report that "while all of the grasses sown gave promise of doing fairly well this year, crested wheat grass did exceptionally well." Smith's report in 1927 added that after two years' observation, crested wheat grass was selected as the most promising of the grasses in the nursery and enough seed was obtained for Clyde Wright to sow 40 acres.

With continued experimentation and small field trials with this grass, the acreage expanded gradually until by 1932 there were 250 acres seeded. By 1936 the total had reached 7000, since which time it has increased at the rate of nearly 10,000 acres a year.

One of the earliest farm seedings, made in 1932 on the Rood farm, is still making good growth each season. Several large blow areas and many smaller ones have been "tied down" in the county by planting crested wheat grass. Seeding it in alternate strips with wheat and fallow on the contour, in contour strip farming programs has also proved successful as an erosion control measure on the steeper lands in this county.

Use of the grass with alfalfa re-
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Hardman School to Improve Plant \$8000

Bailey & Thomas, Heppner contractors, this week were awarded a contract for building an addition to the Hardman Union high school building and making other improvements to the total of \$8000. Bids were opened the end of the week. Chas. B. Miller of Pendleton is architect. The work will start immediately with no time limit.

Improvement of the Hardman school plant is being made to bring the school up to standard requirements, in line with a policy adopted by the school board last year, and supported by the taxpayers through authorization of the necessary bond issue.

Riding Club Ready For New Activities

With arrival of four new horses at the Rodeo grounds today, Jim Kistner, president of Morrow County Riding club, reports that organization ready to start a program of renewed activity following the Rodeo interruption.

First project in the offing is participation in the Round-Up parade on Friday next week, and Kistner urges all members, prospective members or others who wish to participate in this event to advise either himself or Earle Bryant, secretary. The club is making arrangements for transportation of any horses participating in this project.

Kistner says the club now has three rental horses which may be used at the rate of 50 cents an hour. This is 50 cents cheaper than is customarily charged. Those who desire to leave horses at the grounds may have them fed and cared for at the rate of \$2 a month plus the feed priced at cost. Those interested in riding should see Frank Tousley, caretaker and trainer, and those interested in membership information should see either Kistner or Bryant.

More interest in the club on the part of the community is welcome, Kistner emphasized. The fine horses shown at the recent Rodeo is an indication of the better saddle ponies expected to be brought into the community as a result of the riding club. The club's main purpose is to give horse lovers an opportunity to enjoy themselves.

7 County 4-H's Attending State Fair

Seven Morrow county 4-H club members are participating in the Oregon state fair at Salem this week. Tad Miller, Don and Buddy Peck are exhibiting sheep and Dick Edmondson and Buddy and Don Peck are participating in the state livestock judging contest. Mildred Clary, Betty Jane Adams and Gwen Glasgow left for Salem today where Betty and Mildred will compete in the state style review contest and Mildred and Gwen will compete in the home economics demonstration contest.

At the time of publication of this paper there were no results available on the judging or exhibits. Sheep classes are being judged today while the style review and demonstrations will be judged tomorrow.

Million Bushels Wheat Under Loan Here

A total of 1,012,211 bushels of Morrow county wheat has been placed under loan to date, according to word received from the local AAA office. This wheat has a total loan value of \$988,240.69. It is estimated that at least another 500,000 bushels will be placed under loan within the next two or three weeks.

It was also reported that 1942 crop insurance applications had been received covering 54,585 acres of wheat.

LEAVES HOSPITAL

Mrs. Mattie Adkins writes relatives in this city that she is back home at Weiser, Idaho, after being confined for five weeks in the hospital at Walla Walla. She says she is very glad to be home and very slowly improving in health.

HOME EC CLUB TO MEET

Lexington Home Economics club will meet with Mrs. Beach on Thursday, Sept. 11.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Smith and Jim and Mrs. Smith's mother, Mrs. Jack Pfeiffer of Seattle arrived Tuesday. The Smiths had visited at Seattle, Yakima and Spokane and Mrs. Pfeiffer accompanied them home to visit for six weeks while Mr. Pfeiffer is in the east on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Coblantz returned home Saturday evening from their vacation, spent at Toledo and Depoe bay with Mrs. Coblantz' parents.

Council Finds No Need For Washer While 'Jupe' Busy

Effective Work of Fire Extinguishers Demonstrated

Some time back Heppner's city council decided to purchase a street washer. That action was rescinded at Tuesday evening's regular meeting when the "dads" decided that Jupiter Pluvius was doing a good enough job for the time being. Another year might bring about necessity for this expenditure, but it just didn't seem plausible at the moment, the dads believed.

The double holiday took its toll of city dads, only two being present besides the mayor and most matters were left on the table while Mr. Hansen of Baker demonstrated the capabilities of two large fire extinguishers recently placed on the city fire truck.

This demonstration proved to officers and firemen present that the equipment is mighty handy in subduing small blazes, and left the impression that Heppner's already efficient fire department will improve its record with this additional help.

Anyone who has burned an automobile tire knows how hot a flame one of these can make, and how difficult they are to put out, once started. The demonstrator placed a lot of oil soaked excelsior in the center of a big truck tire, ignited it, and when the blaze had the tire boiling nicely he shot a few squirts from one of the new sodaphane extinguishers, and swish!—the fire was out just like that.

Vote on Soil District Appears Favorable

Favorable consideration appeared to have been given the Heppner Soil Conservation district by voters who participated in Saturday's referendum, reported Clifford D. Conrad, county agent, this morning. Definite announcement must await a re-cavass of the vote by the state soil conservation committee, however, Conrad said.

From the tabulation of local officials, headed by John Hanna, referendum chairman, it appeared that 58 per cent of the voters, representing more than 70 per cent of the land had cast favorable ballots. The margin appeared sufficient to allow for errors in tabulation, if any.

The edistrict cannot be organized until ordered by the state committee.

Lamb Movement Heavy at Good Prices

Almost daily shipment of lambs from the local yards for the last two weeks has marked the peak of the lamb movement season, with good prices ranging to 11 cents reported.

Harold Cohn has been one of the most active buyers in the local market, while also taking deliveries on lambs all the way from Prineville to Wallowa. An especially strong demand has been shown for young breeder stock, while old ewes have commanded a strong price compared to the last few years.

Lambs generally are reported a little lighter than a year ago, the softer feed in the mountains being given as the reason. Most raisers are trucking their lambs to shipping point.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl W. Gordon went to Portland Saturday night, and on Sunday and Monday visited Seaside and Salem, attending the state fair opening at the latter place. Mr. Gordon came home on Sunday night's train while Mrs. Gordon remained in Salem for a longer visit. Mr. Gordon reports that the fair opened in a deluge of rain.

Court to Ask Work On Hardman Hill

Judge Bert Johnson and Commissioners L. D. Neill and Geo. N. Peck, members of the Morrow county court, departed last evening for Portland to attend a session of the Oregon state highway commission meeting today.

The court will make two bids for further road work in the county. First, they are asking that the state put a gravel finish on the road between Boardman and the munitions depot in the north end of the county. Secondly, they are asking for improvement of the grade up Hardman hill and oiling from Rhea creek junction to the mouth of Chapin creek beyond Hardman.

While there may be little chance of getting either of these projects this year, Judge Johnson emphasized the necessity of the county keeping its oar in before the commission so that the projects may get the attention they deserve in due season. The judge felt that Morrow county had been well treated by the commission in the last two years, with the large amount of work obtained on the Heppner-Condon and Oregon-Washington highways.

Heppner Day Set Friday at Round-Up

"Let's go to the Round-Up on Friday." That's the call of Frank Turner, chamber secretary, in announcing that Friday, next week, the day of the Westward Ho parade has been set by that body as Heppner day at the Round-Up.

A large block of reservations in the grandstand was ordered by Turner, who has tickets at his office for those desiring them as long as they last. This was done to facilitate the Heppner group assembling in one body to see the show, and to let the world know that Heppner is on the map. Other participation that day will be made by the Heppner championship school band and the Morrow County Riding club.

"Pendleton turned out a big gang to assist our Rodeo. Let's reciprocate in kind," Turner says.

Band Prepares for Round-Up Appearance

The championship Heppner school band, under the capable leadership of Harold Buhman, will perform at the Pendleton Round-Up the last two days, September 12 and 13.

Although handicapped by the graduation of many of their group, the band will be on hand for the Round-Up with approximately forty pieces. Several of the alumni members are offering their services before leaving for their respective colleges.

NAVY DEFERMENT ENDS 15TH

The navy recruiting officer of Walla Walla advises that after the 15th of September, the navy may not request deferment of an applicant for enlistment. Previously the navy has been authorizing to request a 90-day deferment, pending the completion of an applicant's enlistment papers. A man's enlistment in the naval service must be completed before any notice is sent to the induction board involved, and if the man's notice to report for examination or induction, has previously been mailed, he must report to his induction board and may not enlist in any of the services. Those wishing to enlist in the naval service for the four-year period for trade training, are urged to do so as soon as possible, before their notices have been mailed by their induction boards. The navy recruiting officer will be in the postoffice on September 15th.

DRIVERS ADVISED OF CHANGE

Daily service in examining driver license applications in the Pendleton area was discontinued August 30, according to announcement from the office of the secretary of state. Persons in the Pendleton area will find the state license examiner in that city on Saturdays hereafter, it was said.

School Opens With 198 In Grades, 102 In High School

Smallest Freshman Class in History, Big Primer Group Seen

Fourteen freshmen, the smallest number entering Heppner high school in many years caused much of the drop in registration in the local schools with the opening Tuesday, reports Alden Blankenship, superintendent.

The fewer freshman dropped the total high school enrollment to 102. But compensating for this in the total school enrollment was an entering primary class of 43, causing the addition of a second first grade teacher and bringing the grade school enrollment to 198, and a total of 300 for the two schools combined.

These figures compare with 126 in high school and 167 in the grades for a grand total of 293 a year ago.

Enrollment by grades was: 1st 43, 2nd 18, 3rd 24, 4th 17, 5th 21, 6th 27, 7th 27, 8th 21. High school, freshmen 14, sophomores 28, juniors 29, seniors 29, and 2 postgraduates.

Aside from some new equipment that was late in arriving, everything was in readiness for the opening and the schools got off to a good start, Mr. Blankenship said.

All teachers were on hand, including, in the grades: 1st, Miss Virginia Lee and Miss Maxine Browning; 2nd, Mrs. Elizabeth Dix; 3rd, Miss Lela Peterson; 4th, Mrs. Lera Crawford; 5th Miss Frances Weaver; 6th, Miss Rose Hoosier; 7th, Ted Stanley Jaross, also grade school athletics; 8th, Harold Buhman, also grade school principal; and in the high school, Alden H. Blankenship, superintendent; Lyle Swenson, principal and boys' athletics; Dorothy Gene Davolt, home economics; Arthur Straus, Smith-Hughes agriculture; Margaret Wright, social sciences; Norbert Peavy, English and mathematics; Virginia Humphrey, commercial.

Angland Paroled on Non-Support Charge

Judge C. L. Sweek, fresh from a month's vacation at his cabin at Seal Rocks on the coast, came to Heppner yesterday to preside over a short session of circuit court.

John Angland, on entering plea of guilty to charge of non-support, was given a three-year parole.

Execution was signed in the case of Pepper vs. Benefiel.

The judge also signed the final order of dissolution for the John Day Irrigation district, recently voted by taxpayers in the district. The way is now cleared for settlement of claims as provided in the petition upon which the election was based, and all affairs of the district liquidated, reports Jos. J. Nys, attorney.

Personnel Changes Made at CCC Camp

The Soil Conservation force at Camp Heppner, CCC, has seen several changes in the last few weeks, reports Jim Kistner, project supervisor.

With transfer of Raymond Michener, engineer, to Klamath Falls, Mr. Ralphs, recently of Monument took over the position. Wm. Harmon and Elmer Hoselton are gone on furlough, and arriving are Chas. Hollinger, assistant technician; Bill Mitchell, foreman, and Roy Tiller, foreman, all from Stanfield, and Chet Brown, foreman, from Monument. The Monument and Stanfield camps have been closed.

MASONS MEET SATURDAY

Heppner lodge 69, A. F. & A. Masons will hold their first meeting for the fall season next Saturday evening, announces Tom Wells, worshipful master.