

Heppner Gazette Times

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, August 2, 1945

Volume 62, Number 19

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PUBLIC AUDITORIUM
PORTLAND, ORE.

Rail Shipments Slightly Below Last Year's Mark

Shortage of Cars Given as Reason For Less Traffic

Rail shipments on the Heppner branch are slightly less than in 1944 according to C. F. Tolleson, Heppner agent for the Union Pacific system. Main contributing factor, Tolleson states, is the shortage of cars but for which shipments would be up to par on the 1944 basis.

Grain shipments have been hampered to some extent because of fewer cars, although in recent weeks wheat has been moving at a fairly good rate. Lumber shipments have kept up to a good level, and cattle are beginning to move to market. Sheep, too, are starting to move to eastern markets. These are the commodities that comprise the bulk of branch line rail shipments. A shrinkage in the sheep population of the county may have some bearing on the year's average shipping by rail but not having checked up on records, Tolleson could not state that such is the case.

Wednesday morning's freight took out one car of cattle for Luke Bibby and one for Ray Wright. Harold Cohn started three double deck carloads of sheep for an eastern destination. Cohn has engaged 12 cars for another sheep shipment Aug. 10. Culp and Sons will ship three carloads of sheep by the same train.

Only comparable figures available without taking too much of the busy agent's time were those for June 1944 and June 1945. In June 1944 total shipment was 172 cars while June 1945 total was 165. Much of the 1944 grain crop remains to be shipped and if cars were available the 1944 figures would be surpassed.

Range and Flower Dealers to Open In Peters Building

L. E. Dick, Standard Oil distributor for the Heppner district, announced Tuesday that he and Mrs. Edwin Dick have rented the Peters corner and will soon occupy the room with their respective lines. Mr. Dick is distributor for the Wedgewood gas range in his territory, while his daughter-in-law has been engaged in the floral business the past several months.

Announcement was made the first of the week that Wedgewood gas ranges may be purchased without priority and that the manufacturing company is working under full steam to put its products out to the distributors. Realizing the lack of proper display facilities at the plant, Mr. Dick decided to find space up town.

Mrs. Dick, operating as Rachel Dick, has not announced her plans in full, but is taking space in the room for displaying plants and taking orders for flowers. She accompanied Mr. Dick to Portland Wednesday where they will make arrangements for shipments of their respective lines.

HERE FROM THE DALLES

In town for a few hours Tuesday were Mr. and Mrs. Willis McCarty and daughter Frances, and Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Anderson of Seattle who are visiting the McCartys. Frances McCarty is home on vacation from San Francisco where she is employed. Mrs. McCarty and Mrs. Anderson plan to return to Heppner Sunday to attend the wedding of Miss Harriet Hager and Major Clayton Shaw.

Granges, Rodeo Assn. Fix Dance Schedule

Opening the rodeo season Saturday night, the dance given by the rodeo association was a huge success and fully justified Bob Runnion's faith in human nature. Tickets went like cigarettes on special sale, with something like 40 left unsold out of 500 printed especially for the dance, and Messrs Cox and Bisbee, rodeo dance ticket sellers extraordinary, were on the jump at the ticket window until near midnight. Runnion is new at the business of managing dances but he is learning rapidly and will be a veteran before the rodeo season closes. He is deeply appreciative for all assistance given and for the big crowd that turned out for his initial effort.

The schedule for the next five Saturday nights has been completed. Lexington grange will give a queen's attendant dance Aug. 4 at the I. O. O. F. hall in Lexington. Members of the Rebekah lodge will serve refreshments. Farrell's orchestra of Long Creek has been retained for this event.

On Aug. 11, Willows grange will give an attendant's dance at the grange hall in Ione. Farrell's or-

chestra will be featured at this dance, according to Carl Troedson who introduced the Long Creek musicians to this section a few weeks ago when he celebrated the completion of a large granary on his farm with a dancing party.

Chairman Runnion has scheduled the Lena dance for the fair pavilion in Heppner the night of Aug. 18, while Rhea Creek grange will hold an attendant's dance at the grange hall Aug. 25.

The pre-rodeo season will wind up with the queen's dance at the fair pavilion the night of Sept. 1. Following these dances, the granges will resume their rotational schedule at the regular price. The pre-rodeo dances have been upped a little, with gents tickets selling for a dollar and ladies tickets 50 cents, including tax.

Accompanied by Mrs. Clyde Nutting, Mrs. Lee Beckner took Queen Colleen and attendants to Pendleton this morning for photographs. Mrs. Beckner has been experiencing difficulty in acquiring costumes for the royal group but hopes to have them decked out in regal rodeo splendor.

About Eight Tons Paper Salvaged

At least eight tons of waste paper was gathered up here Wednesday by Blaine Isom and his crew of Boy Scouts. Paper gathered in Heppner included contributions from surrounding territory, but an unusually good collection was made here in town, Isom stated.

A report on Lexington and Ione was not available at press time although it was understood that the tonnage would be increased from those towns.

When the paper is assembled in Portland bids are made on it by the various paper mills, the highest bidder being the winner. Funds obtained through sale of the salvage will be presented to the Shrine hospital in Portland.

HEARING SET FOR MONDAY

Hearing of an assault and battery charge against Golda Wilson is scheduled for Monday before

Justice J. O. Hager. Mrs. Wilson is charged with having struck Mrs. Esther Burnside in the course of a heated discussion. She also charged Mrs. Burnside with assault and battery but Judge Hager says one hearing at a time is all he can take care of.

School Election Polls Good Vote

School patrons were not disturbed by the long delay in voting on the annual budget and when the votes were counted Friday afternoon it was found that 44 persons had turned out to express their wishes.

Of the 44 votes, 43 were in favor of the proposals, while one local Hiram Johnson voted no.

SLIGHT RAINFALL IN JULY

Two showers visited this vicinity in July, one bringing .01 of an inch, the other .10 of an inch. The month was otherwise noted for a heat wave and occasional strong winds.

Clarence Harris Killed on Okinawa

Tuesday's Morning Oregonian had the following account of the death of Clarence Harris:

Pfc Clarence Thompson Harris of Ione was killed in action on Okinawa on May 23, 1945. The war department has notified his widow, Mrs. Bernice Harris of Ione. This was believed to be his first combat action, as he had been overseas only a short time.

Pfc Harris was born Sept. 11, 1918 at Diamond Springs, Calif., and attended California grade and high schools. He was married to Bernice L. Ring on Oct. 21, 1940, and inducted into the army on Sept. 15, 1944. Following training at Camp Roberts, Calif., he was assigned overseas duty on Feb. 20, 1945.

Surviving in addition to the widow are a daughter, Bernita C. and a son, Clarence Jr. 18 months; his mother, Mrs. H. Hancock; three sisters and two brothers, all in California.

Foresters Control 15-Acre Blaze in Ukiah District

A 15-acre burn in the Ukiah ranger district Sunday evening was brought completely under control by Monday morning according to Ellis Carlson and George Corwin who reported at the office of Ranger Glen Jorgenson Tuesday. The fire started on Wilkins creek where the Brown & Hoxie logging crew operates. It was discovered by truck drivers who had left the area for Ukiah with their loads. They notified the forest officials and returned to the scene after unloading.

Carlson stated that the cushions and wiring of a bulldozer were burned off while oil in the machine was undisturbed. Also two barrels of oil at the side of the road were untouched although the fire burned all around them.

Lookouts are on the alert at all times regardless of the comparatively fire-free season so far. Timbered areas are dry, with the rainy season (if there is to be one) several weeks off.

Sgt Darold Hams is spending a 49-days furlough helping with work on the family farm near Hardman. Darold saw service in Persia and in China.

Points Needed if Local Restaurants To Remain Open

Operators Feel Pinch of Shortage In Rationed Foods

Heppner restaurant operators are faced with a serious problem in keeping their places open for business and unless the OPA recognizes their dilemma and gives down with more meat points some of the eating houses may have to take an enforced vacation. Most of them are running on a curtailed schedule, serving shorter hours or closing at least one day in the week, and if the pinch becomes more pronounced further restrictions will be necessary.

The eating houses have been provided with enough points to carry on on a more or less normal scale. During the summer time they are confronted with the necessity of feeding many extra mouths and this is where the hardship comes in. There are many transients here now, men engaged in special road construction for the Heppner Lumber company. There are harvesters and other laborers who must get their daily rations at the public eating houses—men in vital production work which the higher-ups in the OPA fail to recognize even when advised by the local office.

One cafe has used up its red points and has taken an enforced vacation. Another one is threatening to close up until after the rodeo. A third one opens daily and serves as long as the food lasts and then puts out the "no meals" sign. This works no special hardship on those who can eat elsewhere—at home, for instance—but the people who are dependent on the restaurants are just plain out of luck.

Governor's Job Not Light Task Says Luncheon Speaker

A governor's job is no light task and he must have an effective office organization to carry on the duties of his office successfully. Mrs. R. B. McKeown told the chamber of commerce luncheon group Monday. Mrs. McKeown was in Heppner visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. Joe Hughes, and was invited to be guest speaker at the luncheon.

It was her privilege to serve as clerk and stenographer in the office of Governor Warren of California for several months and she gained an insight to the inner workings of state politics and management not accorded to the lay person who has an occasional opportunity to visit the capitol. Much of the business and political matters pass through the hands of the governor's departmental appointees. Final word or action of course rests with him, but it would be impossible for one man to wrestle with all the details and meet the many people who think they have most urgent matters to present to the governor.

It was Mrs. McKeown's privilege to be introduced to Lord and Lady Halifax on the occasion of their visit to the state house in Sacramento.

CPO Charles Hodge Jr. was introduced by Secretary Van Marter and expressed his pleasure at meeting with the group and for the most cordial reception given him on the occasion of his first visit to Heppner.

Andy Van Schoiack and Patrick Eugene Doherty are among the Morrow county service men visiting the home folks this week.

Heppner Coal Deposit May Hold Possibility For Industrial Development in This Section

Oregon Voter of recent issue has a comment upon coal deposits in Coos county which brings to mind that coal was once mined in Morrow county. Coal from the old Heppner Railroad & Coal company's mines up Willow creek was used locally for several years and after vainly struggling for a bigger market the company folded up and it has been many years since the mines produced.

It is interesting to know that the Coos county deposits have been the subject of a fairly exhaustive report just published by the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. Quoting the Voter: "At one time Coos county coal was mined and shipped to San Francisco at the rate of about 100,000 tons a year. Advent of fuel oil in California spoiled this business. Development of the present war stringencies made it a matter of wisdom to map the coal resources. The State of Oregon by 1943 legislative action appropriated \$20,000 for this work and that amount was matched by Coos county. The experts definitely mapped 541,000 tons of coal, found indications of 800,000 more tons and have reason to believe there is a grand total of 3,200,000 tons."

It was around the turn of the century that coal croppings were discovered on upper Willow creek. Tests showed the coal to be of good quality, a high grade bituminous. When a local company was organized and mining operations got under way, six-horse teams hooked to trail wagons brought the product into Heppner. The newly formed Heppner Railroad & Coal company endeavored to interest the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation company in using the local coal and got as far as furnishing the O-W with enough of the product for a test run between The Dalles and Portland. The test was favorable to the local product in competition with that in regular use by the railroad but nothing came of the trial. With the market limited to what could be hauled from the mines by horse and wagon, the company soon gave up and the mines were closed. Heppner's dream of a big industry and a railroad running from town to the mines also faded out and as the years rolled on the mines were forgotten, except in the memory of those who saw them in operation.

Geologists examining the Heppner coal mine properties reported

that there might be a considerable field in the Blue mountains. As far as the Heppner mines were concerned, it developed that sizeable veins existed but these apparently had been broken by volcanic action and methods of removing the coal at that time were too expensive to make operations successful—this coupled with the fact that the railroads were more interested in the longer haul from the continental divide.

Population increase in Oregon and the northwest should provide a wider market for the coal, or industrial development might be an outlet for by-products. If it could be definitely established that a sufficient tonnage exists, steps could be taken to bring the possibilities to the attention of capital for development. The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries would be the proper agency to investigate the Blue mountain coal deposits. Its work would be unbiased and strictly non-promotional. There may be lack of funds for a general survey of this field but it would be worth a few thousand dollars to learn whether or not coal exists in sufficient quantity in the Willow creek basin to warrant development.